34 killed in run-up to barangay, SK elections

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

150-kph Typhoon 'Inday' threatens RP

A NEW typhoon, packing winds of 150 kilometers per hour, is expected to enter the country's area of responsibility today.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the typhoon, with the international name "Halong," was spotted at 4 p.m. yesterday at

150-KPH TYPHOON/A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

No classes Tuesday for HS, elementary

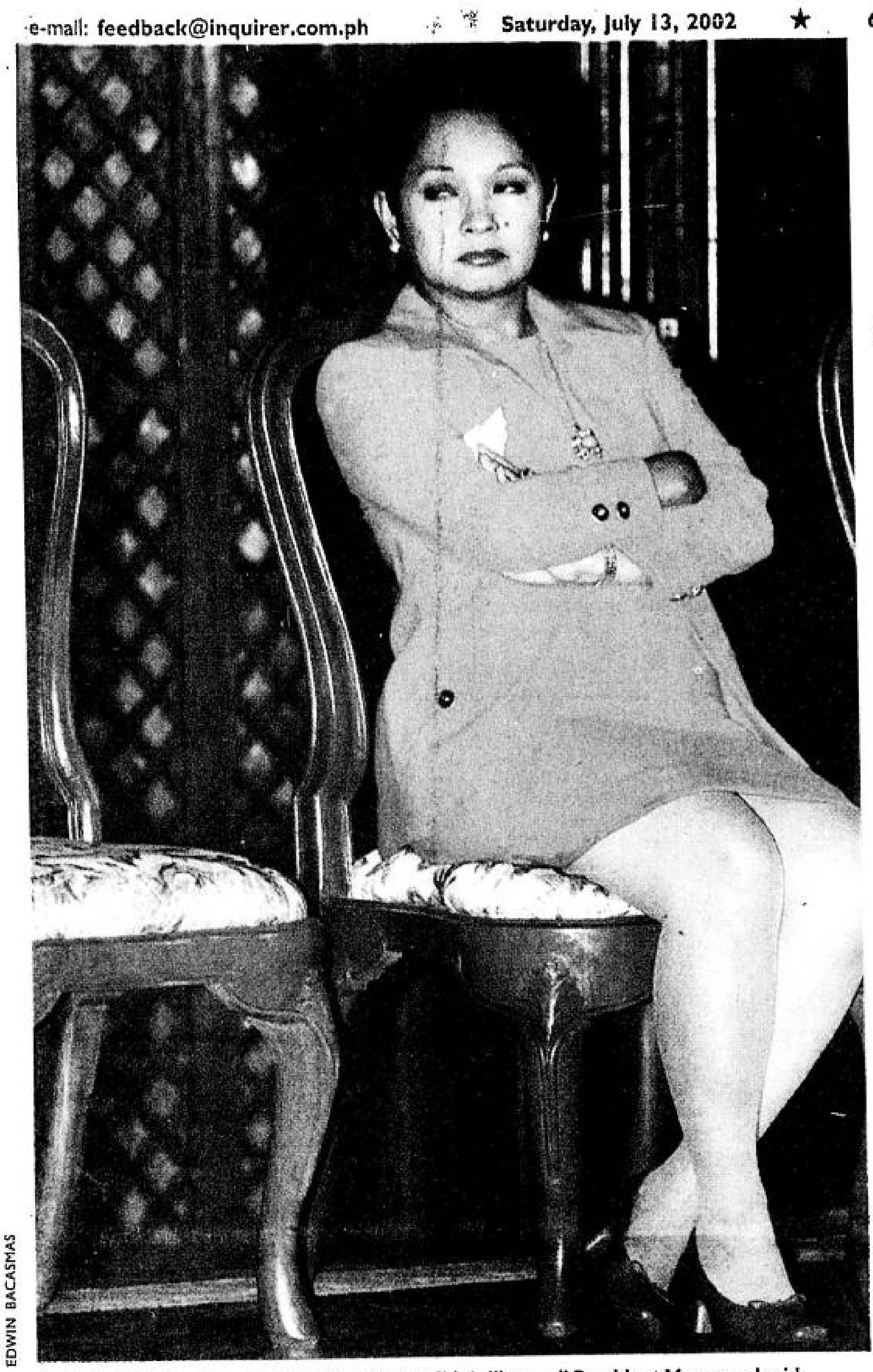
By Donna S. Cueto

THERE will be no classes in public and private elementary and high schools on July 16, the day after the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, the Department of Education (DepEd) announced yesterday.

Education Secretary Raul Roco said

NO CLASSES / A20

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, July 13, 2002 ★ 64 pages / 6 sections / vol. 17 / no. 215 P15 website: www.inq7.net



EDWIN BACASMAS

"THEY didn't like Erap but they (Copa) also didn't like me," President Macapagal said.

'I am the President of Edsa II and Edsa III'

By Carlito Pablo

NOW she's become positively biblical.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is digging deep into the Bible to rationalize her administration's courting of members of the opposition who are mostly identified with her ousted predecessor Joseph Estrada.

"When Jesus Christ recruited Matthew, a tax collector, the Pharisees got angry, and asked him, 'Why are you getting (Matthew)?'" the President said.

"But later on," she pointed out, "Matthew became a devotee."

Ms Macapagal took a leaf from the Good Book in answering a question on her administration's efforts to woo opposition members in a talk Thursday with officers and staff of the Iglesia ni Cristo-owned Net 25 television channel.

And in the face of the current unrest among civil society organizations over the supposed political accommodation being extended to Estrada's allies, she served notice that she did not feel beholden to any person or group because of her being the "President of all the people."

"*Ang utang na loob ko ay sa Panginoon, at sa Panginoon lahat yan* (My debt of gratitude is to God, and to God only)," she said, adding:

"I am the President of Edsa II and Edsa III."

Ms Macapagal also said she initially read about Matthew's enlistment as a dis-

IAM/A19

Bishop offers to mediate in 'civil' unrest

Copa says Mass not anti-Macapagal

By Armand N. Nocum, TJ Burgonio and Christine Avendaño

EVEN "termites" may heed the offer of Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas to mediate the differences between President Macapagal-Arroyo and disgruntled members of civil society groups.

In a statement yesterday, Villegas said he was willing to initiate a dialogue between the President and the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa), adding that "We cannot progress without unity."

"I am ready and willing to facilitate a dialogue between opposing parties so that in the end our people may see unity for the good of everybody especially the poor and the youth," he said.

Rector of the Edsa Shrine, Villegas said he had spoken with Pastor "Boy" Saycon, Copa secretary general, concerning his group's plan to hold a "march and rally at the Edsa Shrine" on Monday, July 15.

"Mr. Saycon assured me that Copa has no such plans and that Copa respects highly the decision of the Archbishop of Manila not to allow rallies or marches at the Edsa Shrine," said Villegas.

In fact, Copa is not going out into the street to hold a rally but only to attend Mass, Saycon told the INQUIRER.

The gathering of civil society groups at the shrine will not be used as a forum to hit back at the Macapagal administration.

"There will be no speeches and no placards. This will not be used to criticize the administration," Saycon said in a phone interview.

Saycon clarified that Copa and other civil society groups will hear Mass, and not hold a prayer rally, "to reflect" on the gains of Edsa I and Edsa II," he said, referring to the people's revolts that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, and President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

"We will remain in the path of the ideals and principles of Edsa."

"I am pleased to receive such an assurance. The Edsa Shrine, being a Catholic

BISHOP/A19

THERE'S life after foreign affairs for Vice President Guingona as a "fiscalizer" of the Macapagal administration, he said at farewell rites at the DFA.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Tito bids farewell but won't 'fade away'

By Rocky Nazareno

"TODAY, I bow out and say farewell as secretary of foreign affairs—farewell, but not fade away."

Vowing to remain prominently in the background as one of the Macapagal administration's "fiscalizers," Vice President Teofisto Guingona yesterday formally stepped down as foreign secretary, three days ahead of the date he had previously announced.

The Associated Press reported that Guingona had said he would no longer attend Cabinet meetings and that that he was unsure whether he could still attend sessions of the National Security Council.

"Pursuant to national interest, I shall also assume an active stand on vital issues after taking a brief vacation from work," the 74-year-old Guingona said in his speech

TITO/A18

'Pest control experts' to lead militants' rally

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

"FUMIGATION and pest control are in order . . . because the Macapagal administration is full of opportunist pests."

This was Teodoro Casiño, Bayan secretary general, talking obviously infected by "termites," which President Macapagal had used to describe her carping critics.

The extermination of the termites and other dangerous pests destroying the gains of Edsa II, according to the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), is set during the President's State of the Nation

PEST/A17

34 killed in run-up to barangay, SK polls

By Martin P. Marfil and the PDI Bureaus

AT LEAST 34 persons have been killed and 14 others were wounded in the run-up to the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on July 15.

The Armed Forces went on red alert starting at 5 p.m. yesterday, according to Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, AFP vice chief of staff and head of Task Force Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections.

Camiling said the military also expected communist

34 KILLED/A18

GUILTY as charged, Indonesian Agus Dwikama is read the verdict at the Pasay Regional Trial Court Branch 117 for possession of explosives. He was sentenced to 17 years. *(Story on Page A2.)*

ERIK ARAZAS

Kansas residents to build new home for Gracia

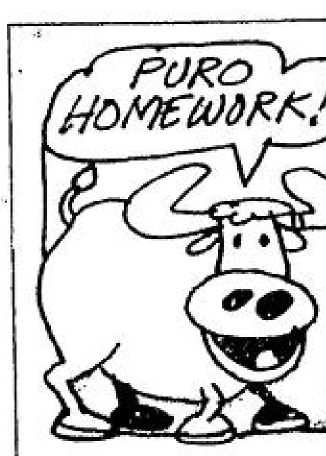
ROSE HILL, Kansas—Former Abu Sayyaf hostage and missionary Gracia Burnham says she wants to call Rose Hill home, so people in this small city plan to build her one by Christmas.

"We're not trying to build her a mansion—she doesn't want one," said Steve McRae, who is organizing the effort. "We just want to give her a home where she can feel comfortable raising her kids."

McRae and others are recruiting workers, contractors and other volunteers to help build the house. Rose Hill is a community of 3,100 people about 16 kilometers southeast of Wichita.

McRae said he didn't know the Burnham family, but fol-

KANSAS/A20



PURO HOMEWORK!

'Out-of-school' whiz kids get college degrees

LONDON—This is a family of achievers.

Iskander Yusof, 15, and his sister Noraisha, 19, who were both tutored at home before going to college, graduated together on Thursday. They

'OUT-OF-SCHOOL'/A20

Second FRONT PAGE

E... BAKIT MAY EXPLOSIVES?

WAR ON TERRORISM

Indon gets 17 years for explosives

By TJ Burgonio and Christian Esguerra

CALLING it "a victory of the Philippine criminal justice system against international terrorism," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday expressed satisfaction over the conviction of Indonesian Agus Dwikarna for illegal possession of explosives.

A Pasay City court had sentenced Dwikarna to up to 17 years in prison after he was caught at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in March with C-4 explosives in his luggage. He was also ordered to pay a fine of P50,000.

The President, with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, paid a surprise visit to police Intelligence Group headquarters at Camp Crame, Quezon City, at 2 p.m. yesterday to present Dwikarna to the media.

Ms Macapagal-Arroyo's brief visit caught top police officials off guard, including Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., who arrived just as the President's party was leaving.

Earlier, Pasay City Judge Henrick Gingoyon had found the 37-year-old Dwikarna guilty of violating Presidential Decree 1866 for illegal possession of explosives.

Dwikarna, together with Indonesians Abdul Jamal Balfas and Hamsid Lin Rung, was arrested at the Naia last March 13 while the three were about to leave the country.

Seized from Dwikarna were two pieces of C-4 plastic explosives and five detonating cords, police said.

The case against Balfas and Lin Rung was dismissed for lack of evidence and after the Indonesian government interceded for them.

The three were linked to another Indonesian, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, 30, an explosives expert belonging to the Jemaah Islamiyah extremist group linked to international terror suspect Osama bin Laden. Al-Ghozi was recently sentenced to 12 years in prison for his role in bombings in Metro Manila and Mindanao.

Weeks after the trio's arrest, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the repatriation of Balfas and Lin Rung upon the personal intercession of Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

The Agence France Presse reported that Indonesia will question the "heavy sentence" handed down on Dwikarna.

"The Indonesian government, through its embassy in the Philippines, will find out whether the trial met the standards as far as the decision on Dwikarna is concerned," foreign ministry spokesperson Marty Natalegawa was quoted as telling the official Antara news agency.

A Philippine justice official said Friday intelligence reports had additionally linked Dwirkana to Majlis Mujahedin Indonesia, which is led by elderly cleric Abu Bakar Ba'ashir. Malaysian and Singapore authorities have linked Ba'ashir to Jemaah Islamiyah.

EDWIN BACASMAS

LIGHT MOMENT. The President quickly withdraws her hand after convicted terrorist Agus Dwikarna offers his in a handshake, eliciting laughter all around, at Camp Crame yesterday.

Ba'ashir has denied terrorist links but praised bin Laden as "a true Muslim warrior."

The official said Dwikarna was also implicated in the deadly bombing attacks in Metro Manila in December 2000 and in a bomb attack on the home of the Philippine ambassador to Indonesia the same year.

Dwikarna's lawyer, Rogelio Linzag, said he will file a motion for reconsideration since "there were inconsistencies regarding the facts of the case."

He said he will also seek the reopening of the case to present new witnesses such as the person who purportedly brought Dwikarna and the others to the Philippines to check out the tuna business in General Santos City in Mindanao.

The defense earlier claimed the arrests were politically motivated—aimed at discrediting Indonesian presidential aspirant Amien Rais.

Dwikarna was deputy secretary of Rais' political party, Partai Amanat Nasional.

Dwikarna will remain in detention at IG headquarters until the courts decide whether he would serve his sentence in the country or be deported to Jakarta. *With an AFP report*

Duterte's tough stance rubs off on GMA

By D.Pazzibugan,
R. Nazareno
and R. Ponte

DAVAO City—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's mailed-fist approach to crime fighting seems to have rubbed off on President Macapagal-Arroyo.

After listening to Duterte talk about his tough brand of law enforcement, Ms Macapagal has backtracked from her longstanding opposition to the death penalty.

She now says she has realized that the death penalty is necessary to deter criminals.

"Even I who is convent-bred understands the eye-for-an-eye and a tooth-for-a tooth (attitude), especially if the crime is very grave," Ms Macapagal told Net25 television on Thursday night.

She said upholding the death penalty would be her administration's application of the biblical injunction famously elucidated by Duterte.

But she claimed that Duterte "never said he will implement the an-eye-for-an-eye and a tooth-for-a-tooth" rule.

In fact, she quoted him as saying that he respected human rights and the law.

Ms Macapagal earlier vowed to stay all state executions in line with her personal beliefs and the Church's pro-life stance. She voted against the Death Penalty Law as a senator.

But early this year, she changed her mind and assured the Chinese-Filipino community that she would allow convicted kidnappers to be executed but said the execution of criminals would be stayed.

On Wednesday, however, Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said there would be no stay of the execution of convicted rapist Alfredo Nardo on Oct. 16.

Duterte, who was widely criticized for his tough statements on criminals and criminality at last Tuesday's anti-crime summit, has been asked to serve as police "consultant" in the renewed drive against kidnapping and drug trafficking.

Duterte said criminals "threaten to kill, so what we'll do is we kill them, too."

Duterte's discourse, while apparently pleasing to the President, has been criticized by social and human rights activists.

Fr. Jose Dizon, PlunderWatch spokesperson, said Duterte's approach was destined to fail and may even end up with "us losing all our eyes and our teeth."

"We had this kind of approach during martial law, which ended up with about 10,000 innocents summarily executed, and former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim's Dirty Harry approach to drug syndicates and criminality, which ended up with innocent people complaining of human rights violations," said Dizon.

He said Duterte's favorite biblical phrase from the Old Testament was no longer acceptable among Christians who now propagate Jesus Christ's principal message of love, peace and reconciliation.

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday hailed Ms Macapagal's newfound vigor in curbing criminality, particularly kidnapping, illegal drugs and terrorism.

Drilon keeps hope alive for majority

SENATE President Franklin Drilon said yesterday the opposition bloc's bid to wrest control of the Senate had failed, dismissing it as "nothing more than holding the country hostage to the whimsical nature of politicians."

Speaking before the civil liberties watchdog Kilosbayan, Drilon said that since the attempt to reorganize the Senate on June 3 ended in a deadlock (12-12), it could be considered to have failed.

"If you stage a coup and end up with a stalemate, you have lost," Drilon said, quoting INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronilla.

Drilon noted that "the opposition bloc has lost its cause, if we can properly term what they have a cause."

Drilon said the Senate sessions conducted by the opposition after June 3 were "illegal and a farce."

"They contravened the rule that the Senate cannot unilaterally pass bills after the House of Representatives adjourns, as it did on June 4," Drilon said.

He added, "there is no way the Senate impasse could be allowed to continue." The opposition gained the upper hand in the chamber last month after Sen. John Osmeña switched sides and Sen. Ramon Revilla left for the United States for spine surgery. *Rocky Nazareno*

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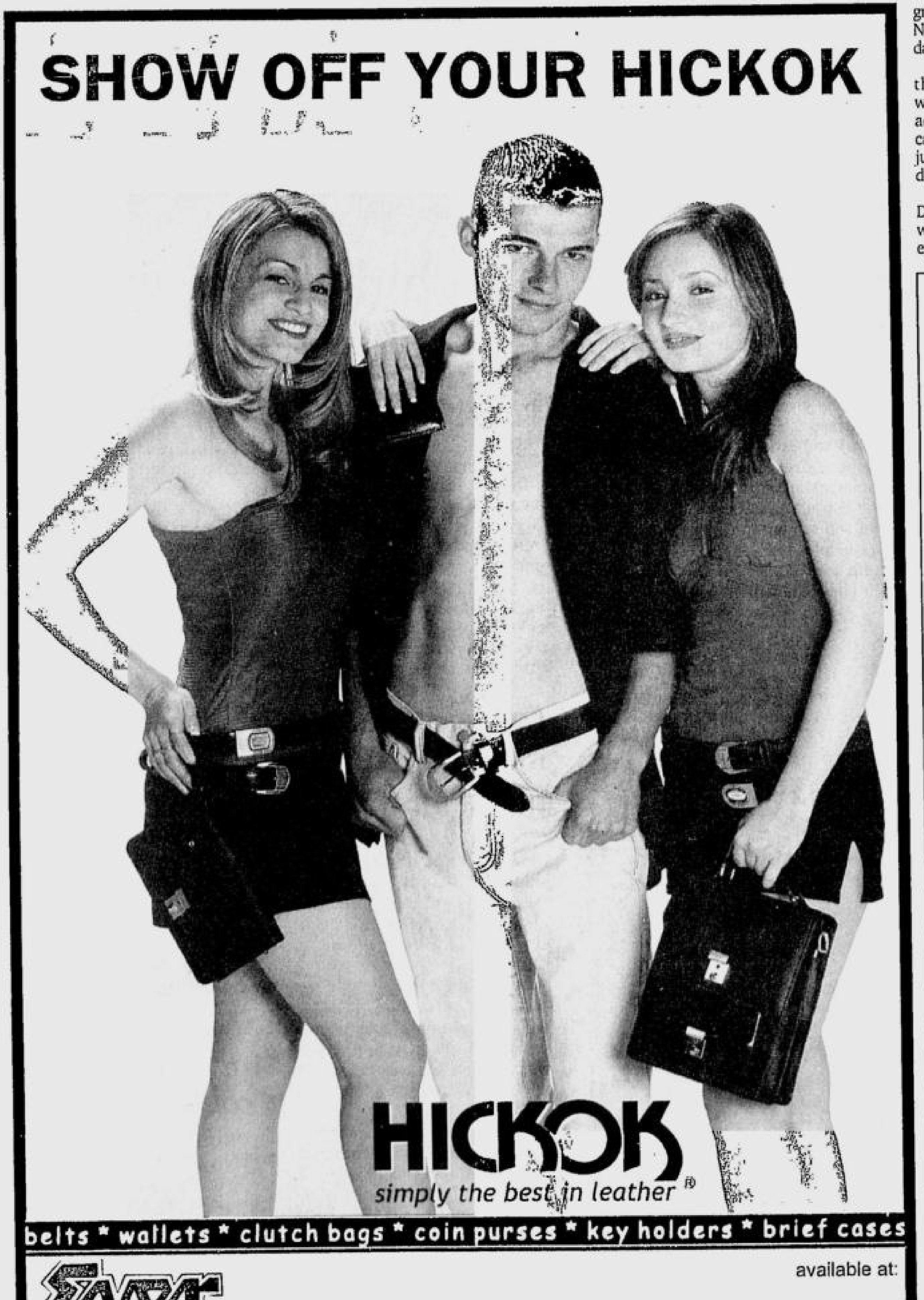
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Number of hungry Filipinos up slightly—SWS

THE NUMBER of Filipinos that experienced hunger in the second quarter of 2002 rose slightly to 11.5 percent, from the 11.2 percent that experienced hunger pangs in the first quarter of the year.

This was revealed in the latest Social Weather Stations survey on hunger taken in May.

The hunger figure includes 3.1 percent who experienced severe hunger and 8.4 percent who felt moderate hunger.

Severe hunger means the respondents went to bed hungry almost every night, while moderate hunger pertained to those who went hungry only a few times in the past three months.

The good news, if it could be labeled as such, the SWS survey showed, was the number of severely hungry Filipinos has continued to decline, from 6 percent in March 2001 to 3.3 percent in November 2001, to 3.1 percent in May, its lowest level since 1999.

SWS estimated the 11.5 percent hungry Filipinos represented 1.8 million households or about nine million citizens, based on the National Statistics Office average household size of five.

The survey showed hunger across the nation varied. It was lowest in Metro Manila at 7.7 percent and highest in Mindanao at 13 percent. For the rest of Luzon, hunger was at 12.3 percent and in the Visayas, 10.7 percent.

The survey also showed that moderate hunger figures tended to be highly volatile. They peaked at 10.1 percent in March 2001, slid to 5.7 percent in September 2001, but rose to 7.1 percent in November 2001. In March 2002, moderate hunger increased slightly to 7.5 percent and then rose again to 8.4 percent last May.

For the May survey, the SWS asked 1,200 statistically representative household heads throughout the Philippines if their households had experienced hunger, without anything to eat, at least once in the previous three months.

The survey conducted from May 17 to June 3 had an error margin of plus or minus 3 percent with a 95 percent confidence level. ***PDI Research***

More towns under state of calamity due to rains

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Three more towns and two cities in Pangasinan have been placed under a state of calamity as floods caused by continuous rains worsened on Friday.

These were San Carlos and Dagupan cities and Malasiqui, Aguilar and San Fabian towns.

Nine more persons were reported killed in Pangasinan and Bulacan, raising to 46 the death toll nationwide from the monsoon rains and two typhoons that struck Luzon the past two weeks.

The latest fatalities in Pangasinan were Robert Evangelista, 20, of Malasiqui; Nena Uson, 54, San Carlos City; Romeo Imburnal, 40, San Fabian; Welsey Balicuat, 34, and Rojun Millora, 27, both of Infanta; and Anzamel Janila Sator, six-months-old, and Carlito Navarro, 54, both of Dagupan City. Ariel Generalao, 37, of San Fabian, was reported missing.

The fatalities in Bulacan were Christopher Libanon, 15, of San Jose del Monte City, and Oscar Francisco, 68, of Meycauayan.

While the Binga dam in Benguet slowed its water release, most barangays in 43 Pangasinan towns remained under waist-high floods. Most towns in Tarlac were also underwater.

Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani asked Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to release the quick response fund for the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure, farmlands and fishpens. ***Yolanda Fuertes, Nathan Alcantara and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Abner Bolos and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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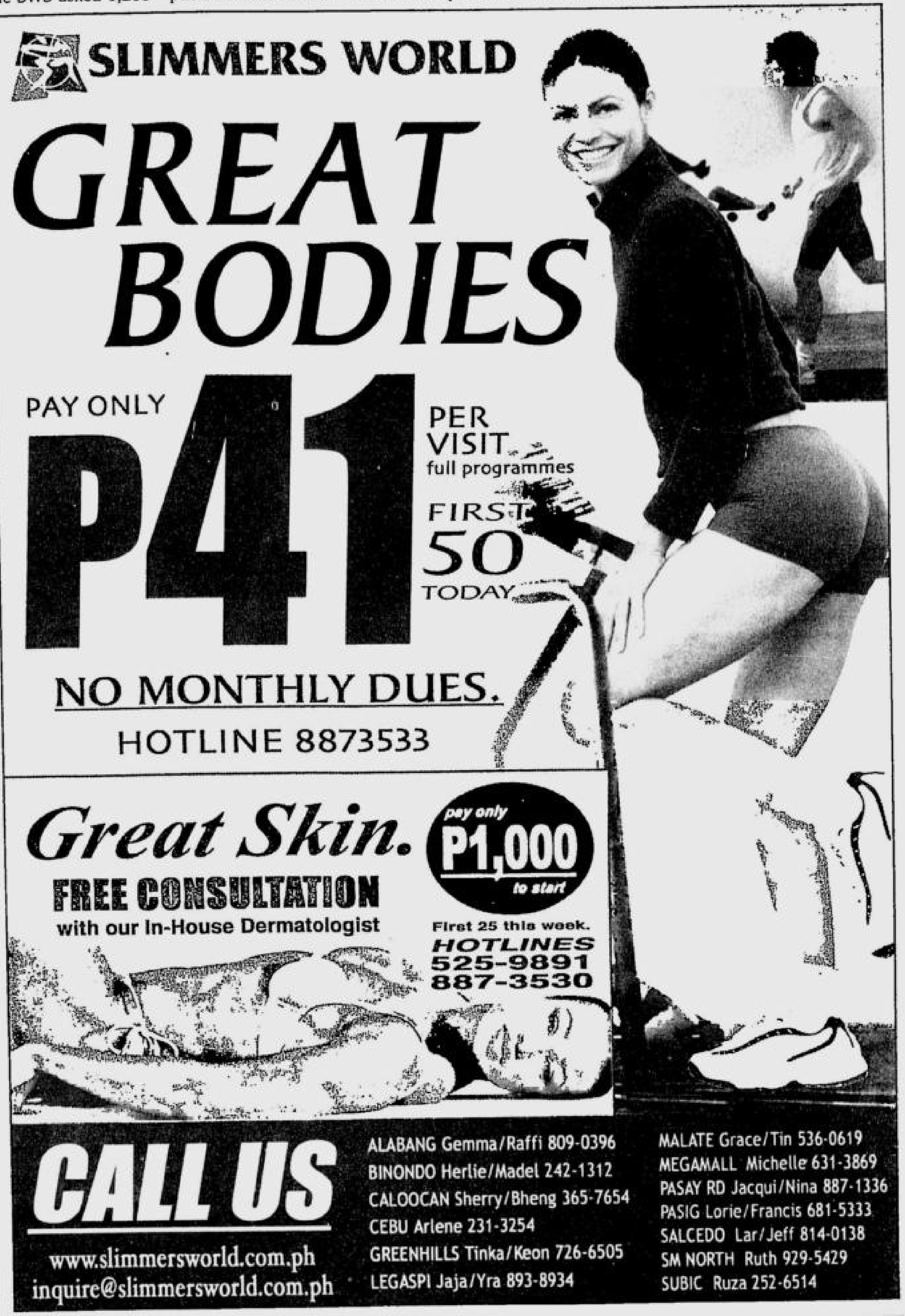

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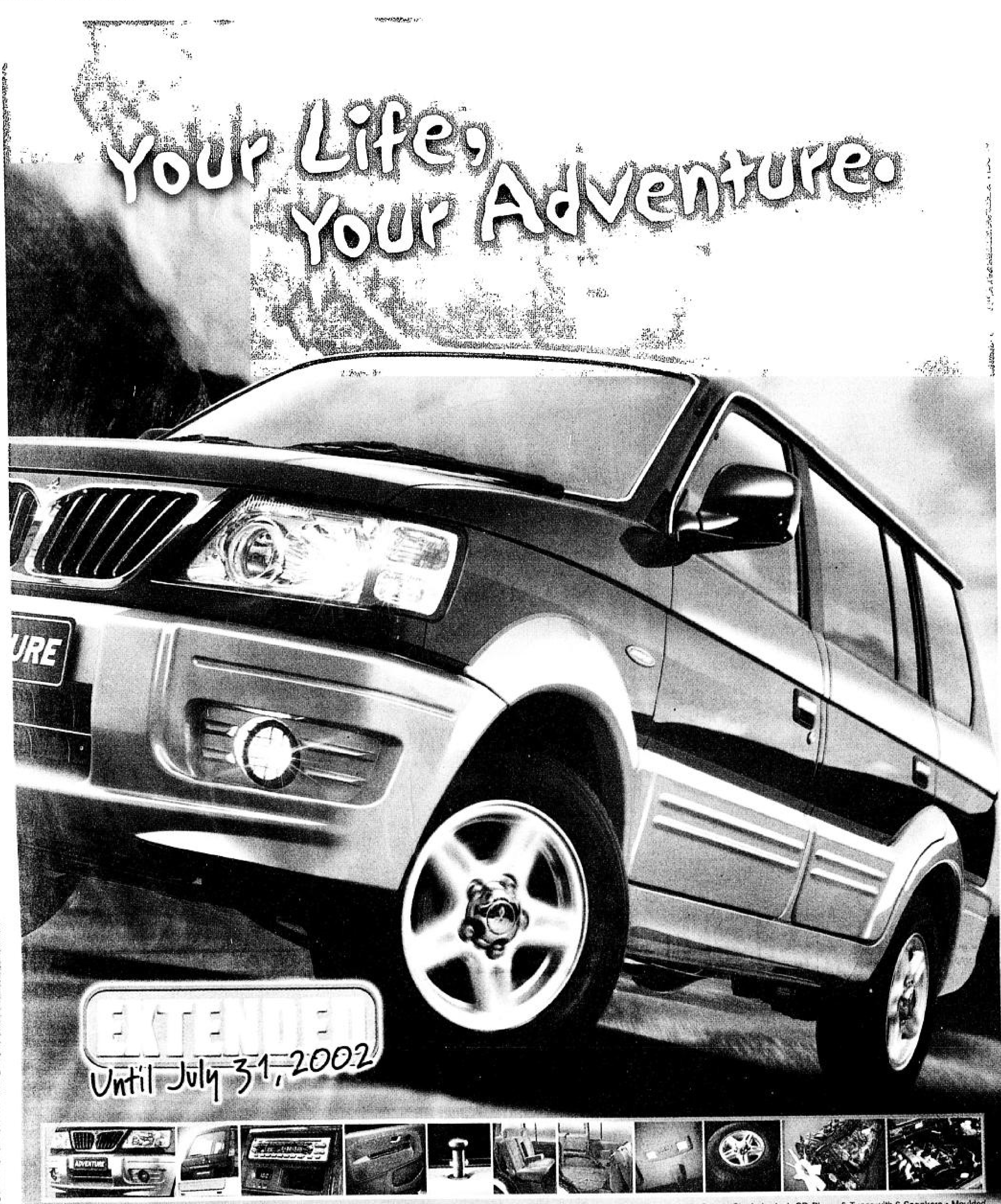

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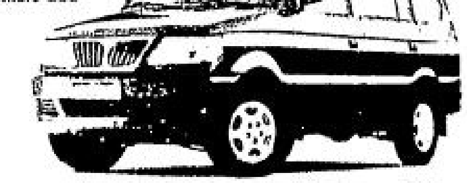

Low D/P Plan

Model	SRP	20% D/P	24 mos.	36 mos.
GL Diesel M/T	611,000	102,200	24,407	17,374
GLX Gas M/T	645,000	99,000	25,766	18,341
Diesel M/T	670,000	90,000	26,784	19,052
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	90,000	28,162	20,047
GLS Sport Gas M/T	698,000	139,600	27,883	19,848
Sport Diesel	713,000	142,600	28,482	20,275
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	90,000	28,762	20,474
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	114,000	30,759	21,896
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	115,000	29,960	21,327
Gas A/T	790,000	123,000	31,558	22,464

**60mos. 50% D/P

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Model	SRP	50% D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	36 mos.	60 mos.
GL Diesel M/T	611,000	305,500	26,046	17,919	10,175	7,166
GLX Gas M/T	645,000	322,500	*26,875	18,370	10,436	7,348
Diesel M/T	670,000	335,000	*27,917	19,153	10,882	7,661
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	352,500	*29,375	*19,583	10,786	7,589
GLS Sport Gas M/T	698,000	349,000	31,795	21,874	12,405	8,742
Sport Diesel	713,000	356,500	32,478	22,344	12,672	8,929
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	360,000	*30,000	*20,000	10,951	7,704
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	385,000	*32,083	*21,389	12,318	8,671
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	375,000	*31,250	21,353	12,133	8,542
Gas A/T	790,000	395,000	*32,917	22,607	12,844	9,043

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'Flood control transfer illegal'

A CONGRESSMAN from the National Capital Region charged yesterday that the administration violated the Constitution when it allowed the transfer from the Department of Public Works and Highways to the Metro Manila Development Authority the job of overseeing flood control in the metropolis.

Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo said Article 6 of the Constitution prohibits the transfer of appropriated funds from one government agency to another.

In violation of this, Gunigundo said DPWH Secretary Simeon Datumanong and MMDA chair Bayani Fernando signed on July 9 a memorandum of agreement allowing the transfer of funds, personnel, equipment and assets and liabilities from the DPWH to the MMDA.

He said the DPWH could not transfer its P189-million flood control and drainage system fund to the MMDA because this had been appropriated for the department by Congress in the 2002 national budget.

"So if they insist on implementing this, they will be courting prosecution in violation of the anti-graft and corrupt practices law," Gunigundo said in an interview.

In a later statement, Gunigundo said the MOA between the two agencies was "patently illegal" and "unconstitutional."

He pointed out the framers of the Constitution had included the prohibition on the transfer of funds to prevent misappropriation and embezzlement. ***Christine O. Avendaño***

Reds raid cop station; 7 killed

FIVE communist guerrillas and two policemen were killed Friday in a daring rebel raid on a police station in the eastern island province of Catanduanes.

National police spokesman Leopoldo Bataoil said heavily armed members of the New People's Army (NPA) swooped down on a police station in the town of Bagamanoc aboard two trucks, triggering a firefight.

He said five rebels and two policemen were killed in the gunbattle, but the guerrillas were later repulsed.

The NPA is the armed wing of the underground communist movement. Peace talks with the insurgents were suspended last year when the NPA gunned down two legislators.

Provincial police head Gil Hitosis said the NPA rebels attacked the Bagamanoc police station at midday and exchanged fire for 30 minutes with five policemen in the station. ***AFP, Reuters***

A. Fernandez; 63

AMBASSADOR Armando "Manding" C. Fernandez, former Philippine resident representative to Taiwan, died on July 10 at the age of 63.

His remains will be brought today to his birthplace, Dagupan City, where he will be interred on July 17 at the Eternal Gardens Cemetery.

Fernandez was a career diplomat, lawyer, journalist, local government official and member of socio-civic organizations both here and abroad. He capped his diplomatic career as a DFA Assistant Secretary.

He is survived by his wife, Estrella, and sons Angelo, Emilio and Armando Jr.

China market beckons EAGA

DAVAO CITY—Filipino businessmen and their counterparts in the East Asean Growth Area grouping Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines should consider the growing economy of China and not just that of Europe or America, said former Sen. Vicente Paterno.

Paterno, the founding director of the BIMP-EAGA business council, said that China's economy would be as large as that of the United States by 2020.

He said economists have projected that China's gross domestic product would grow at the rate of six percent per annum compared with a 2.5 percent projected growth rate for the United States. *J.Escovilla and A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

INVITATION TO BID

The **GSIS BIDDING COMMITTEE** shall conduct a public bidding for the sale of the following Residential/Subdivision housing units and lots foreclosed/acquired properties on **JULY 30, 2002**, at the GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

Prop. No.	Description and Location of Property	TCT No.	AREA (Sq.M.)	MINIMUM BID
	HOUSE & LOT			
1	**Lot 38, Block 17 Phase V** #38 Aguinaldo St., Pacita Complex I San Pedro, Laguna	84588	228	P937,800.00
2	**Lot 19, Block 8, Phase III** Pacita Avenue, Pacita Complex I San Pedro, Laguna	71949	227	1,887,600.00
3	**Lot 8, Block 1** Rosemoor Subdivision San Miguel, Bulacan	T-200548	192	446,400.00
4	**Lot 23, Block 62, Phase 3** COGEO Village, Antipolo City	T-399155	240	616,000.00
5	**No. 17 (253) Col. S. Cruz St.** Bo. Balite, Rodriguez (San Mateo)	97774	290	661,500.00
6	**Lot 16, Block 14** GSIS Hills Subdivision Caloocan City	94035	374	1,272,800.00
7	**Lot 3, Block 20, Area "B"** Queens Row Subd., Bacoor, Cavite	T-225103	220	508,376.00
8	**Lot 2, Block 21, Area "B"** Queens Row Subd., Bacoor, Cavite	T-234515	297	725,700.00
	LOT ONLY			
9	**Lot 20, Block 8, Phase III** Pacita Avenue, Pacita Complex I San Pedro, Laguna	71950	234	1,825,200.00
10	**Lot 1, Block 6** GSIS Hills Subdivision Caloocan City	93726	431	1,293,000.00
11	**Lot 7, Block 34, Area "S"** Queens Row Subd., Bacoor, Cavite	74300	375	750,000.00
12	**Lot 8, Block 4** Rosemoor Subd., San Miguel, Bulacan	211071	218	261,600.00
13	**Lot 12, Block 5** Rosemoor Subd., San Miguel, Bulacan	211097	180	216,000.00
14	**Lot 4** Bo. Cupang, Antipolo City	439649	206,164	37,109,520.00
15	**Lot 6, Block 1** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8589	276	552,000.00
16	**Lot 7, Block 1** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8590	202	404,000.00
17	**Lot 8, Block 1** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8591	240	480,000.00
18	**Lot 9, Block 1** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8592	240	480,000.00
19	**Lot 8, Block 2** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8595	226	452,000.00
20	**Lot 13, Block 2** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8597	258	516,000.00
21	**Lot 14, Block 2** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8598	240	480,000:00
22	**Lot 15, Block 2** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8599	240	480,000.00
23	**Lot 17, Block 2** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8600	240	480,000.00
24	**Lot 18, Block 2** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8601	240	480,000.00
25	**Lot 8, Block 3** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8604	220	440,000.00
26	**Lot 3, Block 4** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8610	240	480,000.00
27	**Lot 4, Block 4** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8611	243	486,000.00
28	**Lot 5, Block 4** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8612	245	490,000.00
29	**Lot-A, Block 4** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8615	287	574,000.00
30	**Lot C, Block 4** Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina	N-8614	363	726,000.00

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Interested parties are required to secure copies of: (a) **INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS** and (b) **BID FORMS** from the Disposition Department, 5th Level, Core "C". GSIS Headquarters Bldg., Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.
2. Sealed proposals in triplicate will be received at the 3rd Level, Core G, GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City starting **8:00 AM BUT NOT LATER THAN 1:30 PM** on **JULY 30, 2002** and immediately after which, the proposals will be opened in the presence of the attending bidders.
3. Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a **DEPOSIT IN CASH** or **CERTIFIED CASHIER'S/MANAGER'S CHECK** issued in Metro Manila, payable to the GSIS in an amount equivalent to at least **TEN (10%) PERCENT** of the total bid price.
4. Properties will be sold on **"AS IS, WHERE IS BASIS"** and the winning bidder shall take possession of property without seeking any assistance from the GSIS.
5. If the bidder who submitted the best offer refuses to push through with the purchase of the property for which he/she auctioned during and after the bidding, his/her deposit will be **FORFEITED** and failure of bidding shall be declared.
6. **ALL AWARDS BY THE BIDDING COMMITTEE ARE SUBJECT TO THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER and/or BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

(Sgd.) **ARNALDO C. CUASAY**
OIC-Office of the Sr. Vice President
Housing and Real Property Dev't. Group

July 13, 14 & 15, 2002 -- Inquirer

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3. Castillo, Sarah Grace	B.S. Business Management, NCBA	Aguinaldo
4. Manlongat, Sheryll Anne	B.S. Accountancy, Polytechnic University of the Philippines	Aguinaldo
5. Puentenegra, Angelie Joyce	A.B. Pyschology, La Consolacion College	Crame
6. Santos, Fabian	B.S. Information Technology, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila	Bonifacio
7. Sta. Cruz, Robinson	B.S. Accountancy, San Beda College	Bonifacio
8. Torremonia, Ivony	B.S. Education, Centro Escolar University	Bonifacio
9. Villegas, Joanne	B.S. Accountancy, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila	Bonifacio
10. Abordo, Gilyn	B.S. Information Technology, St. Louis University	Baguio
11. Aquino, Robyn Ross	B.S. Information Technology, Computronix College	Baguio
12. Erese, Jayson	B.S. Information Technology, AMA Computer College	Clark
13. Peralta, Rovely	B.S. Information Technology, ABE Int'l. College of Bus. & Eco.	Clark
14. Ensenado, Elena Marie	B.S. Development Communication (Education), UP (Los Baños)	Lucena
15. Salvino, Lotiz	B.S. Information Technology, Technological Institute of the Phils.	Lucena
16. Reyes, Rae-Anne	B.S. Information Technology, Mapua Institute of Technology	Sangley
17. Bermejo, Harold	B.S. Information Technology, Ateneo de Naga	Legaspi
18. Borejon, Arlene	B.S. Business Administration, Ateneo de Naga	Legaspi
19. Cabus, Rosemarie	B.S. Accountancy, University of St. La Salle-Bacolod	Iloilo
20. Villacorta, Mary Grace	B.S. Information Technology, University of St. La Salle-Bacolod	Iloilo
21. Agadier, Ickey Rod	B.S. Information Technology, Silliman University	Cebu
22. Arnaiz, John	B.S. Information Technology, Silliman University	Cebu
23. Gravador, Novey	B.S. Accountancy, Silliman University	Cebu
24. Puspus, Archie	B.S. Accountancy, University of San Carlos	Cebu
25. Regis, Domer	Bachelor in Elementary Education, Leyte Normal University	Tacloban
26. Alipato, Ruthzel	B.S. Accountancy, Xavier University	Cag. de Oro
27. Gabao, Rian Tom	B.S. Information Technology, Xavier University	Cag. De Oro
28. Angelada, Grayzelle Ivan Lex	B.S. Information Technology, St. Columban College	Pagadian
29. Percha, Realaine	B.S. Accountancy, Ateneo de Davao University	Davao
30. Agar, Marifah	B.S. Information Technology, AMA Computer College	Cotabato
31. Dar, Jennifer	B.S. Accountancy, Ateneo de Davao University	Cotabato
32. Gorgoya, Jeana	B.S. Accountancy, R. Magsasay Memorial Colleges	Gen. Santos
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OUT OF COURTESY

Top police generals to resign

By TJ Burgonio

SEVERAL top-ranked police generals have decided to submit their courtesy resignations in order to give Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. "a free hand" in reorganizing the national police, an official said yesterday.

"There was a consensus among the generals that it is the appropriate thing to do every time there's a change in the PNP leadership," said Director Virtus Gil, the head of the Philippine National Police's personnel and records management section.

This would ensure that when the new PNP chief institutes a revamp, "there will be no resistance," he said.

Ebdane may have already started the revamp with the appointment of his "mistah," Deputy Director General Clyde Fernandez, as deputy chief for administration.

The DCA is the second highest post in the PNP, which Ebdane himself used to hold.

Ebdane and Fernandez, who heads the Philippine Center on Transnational Crimes (PCTC), are members of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1970.

Some observers have said that Fernandez's appointment could create some resentment as he was not the most senior of the police officials in line for the position.

Fernandez was promoted to three-star rank a couple of months ago.

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PDI PAPER DRIVE. The League of Corporate Foundations has thrown its support behind the INQUIRER's New Paper Drive. Toyota Foundation's Mon Ventura (center) presents collected newspapers to INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez (right). Other LCF members present were Dulce Festin-Baybay of ABS-CBN Foundation, Max Ventura, Philamlife Foundation; Nicole Tirona, Andres Soriano Foundation; Malu Erni and Allan Victorino, Petron Foundation; LCF executive director Art Caraga and INQUIRER corporate relations manager Celine Madamba.

Lawyers require full disclosure for new Ombudsman

By Agnes E. Donato

A NEWLY formed lawyers' group yesterday asked aspirants for the Ombudsman's post to disclose who their clients and backers are.

The Lawyers for an Ombudsman's Freedom and Tenacity (Lofty), which yesterday counted 50 lawyer members, said the public has to know if a candidate is involved in a conflict of interest situation in case he or she is chosen.

"We demand that the candidates disclose who their clients and patrons are. We would also want to know their background and their stand on such issues as plunder and graft and corruption," said Lofty member Marichu Lambino.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, who has held the post for the past seven years, will be retiring on Aug. 4.

"While solving graft as a systematic societal problem is not the sole responsibility of the Ombudsman and may even exceed his capacities, it certainly does not help if the appointed chief graftbuster is a crony out to protect vested interests playing footsies with the powerful," Lofty said in a statement.

The group said the institution of the 15-year-old Office of the Ombudsman "has not resulted in substantial curtailment of graft and corruption in the Philippines."

Lofty spokesperson Rachel Pastores said most of the criminal cases filed against the family and cronies of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos have dragged on, if not dismissed altogether, because of the alleged inefficiency and corrupt practices of the office.

She said the plunder case of jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada could be expected to go the same way if the next Ombudsman will not reverse the present one's "missteps."

"During the past seven years, the Office of the Ombudsman has been wracked by serious allegations of corruption, with the present Ombudsman perceived as having to rely on political connections to extricate himself from successive impeachment charges," the Lofty statement said.

It said Desierto's replacement should be honest, incorruptible and independent. He or she should also have no patrons or political debts to pay and a track record of dedicated service to the people.

Among Lofty's lawyer members are former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay, Leonardo de Vera, Greg Fabros, Rommel Quizon, Ruben Almadro, Richard Fadulion, Marie Yuvienco and Edre Olalia.

Abus tagged in 4 killings

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Police authorities believe the Abu Sayyaf bandit group may be responsible for the abduction and killing of three fishermen whose bodies were recovered off Lampinigan island on Thursday.

The fishermen—Tunsing and Marcial Arakil and Menong Norsida—went missing on Tuesday while fishing off Lampinigan.

Col. Alexander Aleo, commanding officer of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade in Basilan, said the three had been abducted by the Abu Sayyaf.

Their bodies were recovered by two residents of Lampinigan, Aleo told reporters.

Supt. Bensali Jabarani, the Basilan provincial police director, said the fishermen were residents of sitio Carbon, Malamawi island in Isabela City.

He said the three were fishing with two others when they were attacked by four bandits.

Their two companions managed to flee and reported the incident to the police.

By the time the police arrived, however, the suspects and the victims were gone, Jarabani said.

Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina said he wanted to believe that pirates were responsible for the attack.

Meanwhile, the headless corpse of another fisherman was recovered in Barangay Makiri in Lantawan, Basilan yesterday.

Police identified the victim as Ibrahim Kawang. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Former sex slaves blast Japan

NO to Distortion of HISTORY of WW II !

A FORMER 'comfort woman' protests the distortion of history in Japanese textbooks during a rally yesterday at the Japanese embassy. AP

FILIPINO women who had been forced to work as sex slaves during World War II picketed the Japanese embassy yesterday in protest over the Japanese government's alleged stalling on the passage of a compensation bill.

Many of them now elderly, the former "comfort women" accused Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's government of skirting its "legal responsibilities to the war crimes committed" by Japanese soldiers.

"Up until now, they refuse to open their military archives to speed up the legal process," a statement by Lila Pilpina, an advocacy group representing the former sex-slaves, said.

"The compensation bill and the verdict on our case still stand in the Diet (parliament) and the Supreme Court, respectively.

"The Japanese government has sentenced the Filipina comfort women to the deadly game of delaying tactics," the statement said.

The peaceful protest was to mark the 10th anniversary of the group's campaign for compensation for comfort women. ***AFP***

RP seaman dies on cargo ship

TOKYO—Four Filipino crew members were rushed to the hospital yesterday after collapsing on a cargo ship near Tokyo, and one later died, fire department officials said.

The four were trying to remove water residue in the ship's hold when they collapsed, possibly from lack of oxygen.

Alberto Perez, 36, was pronounced dead soon after he was hospitalized, said Kawasaki Fire Department spokesman Osamu Fujiwara.

Alberto Brusas, 49, Florian Tabucol, 32, and Ronniel Groyon, 28, remained in serious condition, he said.

The four were among 19 Filipino crew members aboard the 7,170-ton Panamanian-registered Windermere that was loading scrap metal at the port of Kawasaki, just south of Tokyo, said another fire department official Daisuke Uchiya.

The Windermere was slated to leave for Jakarta, Indonesia, later in the day, according to Japan's Coast Guard. ***AP***

Import of Danish milk powder banned

By G. Lacuarta and Christine Gaylican

THE agriculture department has temporarily banned the importation of milk powder manufactured by a plant in Denmark following an order from the health department recalling the Danish-made GAIN milk products.

The ban and the recall order were prompted by an advisory from Danish authorities warning that some powdered milk products made by the Aria Foods Hamba (Arinco) plant in Vidabaek, Denmark, the main manufacturing plant of GAIN milk products, may have been contaminated by lubricating oil and microscopic steel flakes.

On Thursday, the health department's Bureau of Food and Drugs announced that it was recalling all 200-gram pouches of GAIN milk products because of contamination concerns.

Abbott Laboratories Phils., the local distributor of GAIN products, yesterday clarified that the contamination warning pertained only to a limited number of the 200-g pouches of GAIN Plus products, not the entire line of GAIN products as the BFAD order suggested.

All the other GAIN line of products that it distributes in the Philippines were safe to use, Abbott said in a statement.

It said it had decided to voluntarily stop selling the potentially affected products.

A memorandum from Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor also specifically directed Abbott Laboratories to halt imports of powdered milk originating from Arinco.

It called for the immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation and issuance of veterinary quarantine clearances for the importation of milk powder from the Arinco plant.

Montemayor also instructed veterinary quarantine officers and inspectors at all major seaports and airports to stop and confiscate all shipments into the country of products from the Arinco plant.

Abbot Laboratories said in its statement that the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration had concluded that the allegedly contaminated products "pose no risk to human health and were safe for human consumption."

It said the problem was isolated to a single packaging line and affected only four lots of 200-g pouches of GAIN Plus milk.

The four lots, consisting of about 173,000 units, included milk packs bearing lot numbers 85-583-YX, 85-585-YX, 86-617-YX and 86-620-YX.

Abbott has established a hotline staffed with medical personnel to answer customer concerns. The hotline number, 689-0555, can be reached between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 13, 2002
14th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Is 6:1-8
Gospel: Mt 10:24-33

Jesus said to his apostles, "A student is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master. A student should be glad to become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If the head of the family has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of the family! So, do not be afraid of them.

There is nothing covered that will not be uncovered, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. What I am telling you in the dark, you must speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops.

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but have no power to kill the soul. Rather be afraid of him who can destroy both body and soul in hell. For only a few cents you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent. As for you, every hair of your head has been counted. So do not be afraid: you are worth much more than many sparrows.

Whoever acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my Father in heaven. Whoever rejects me before others I will reject before my Father in heaven."

Commentary

"There is nothing hidden that will not be made known." Jesus was not referring to the bad things we do but to the good things we have; this should happen not just in the life of the great beyond, but now in our present life. Actually Jesus is encouraging us to take an active role in his mission: "What I am telling you in the dark, you must speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops." Many times we live a spirituality of fear that paralyzes us (thinking of future shame when everybody will know how bad we were) when we are called to carry out our mission with courage, trusting in God's love, removing all fears. "Do not be afraid" is the most frequent word of Jesus to his disciples.

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DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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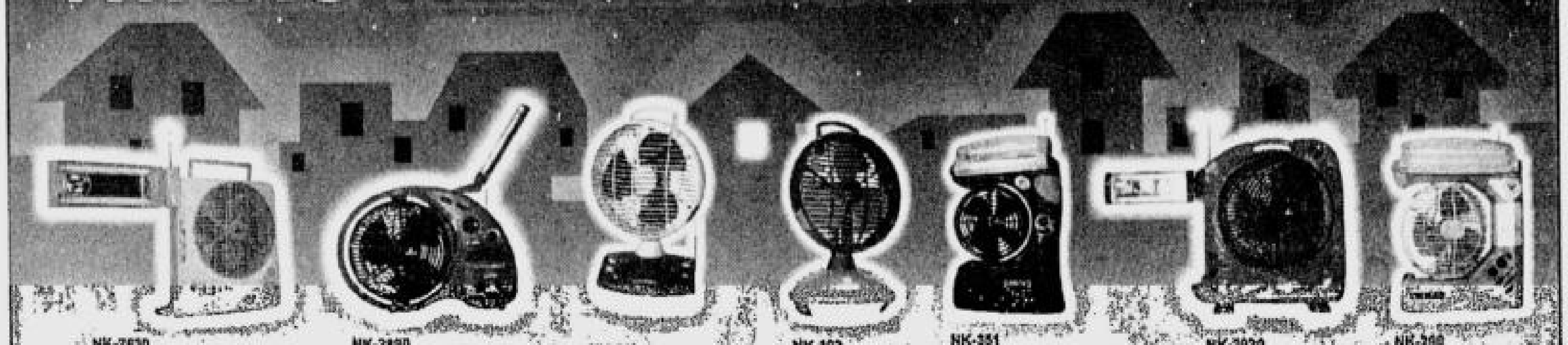

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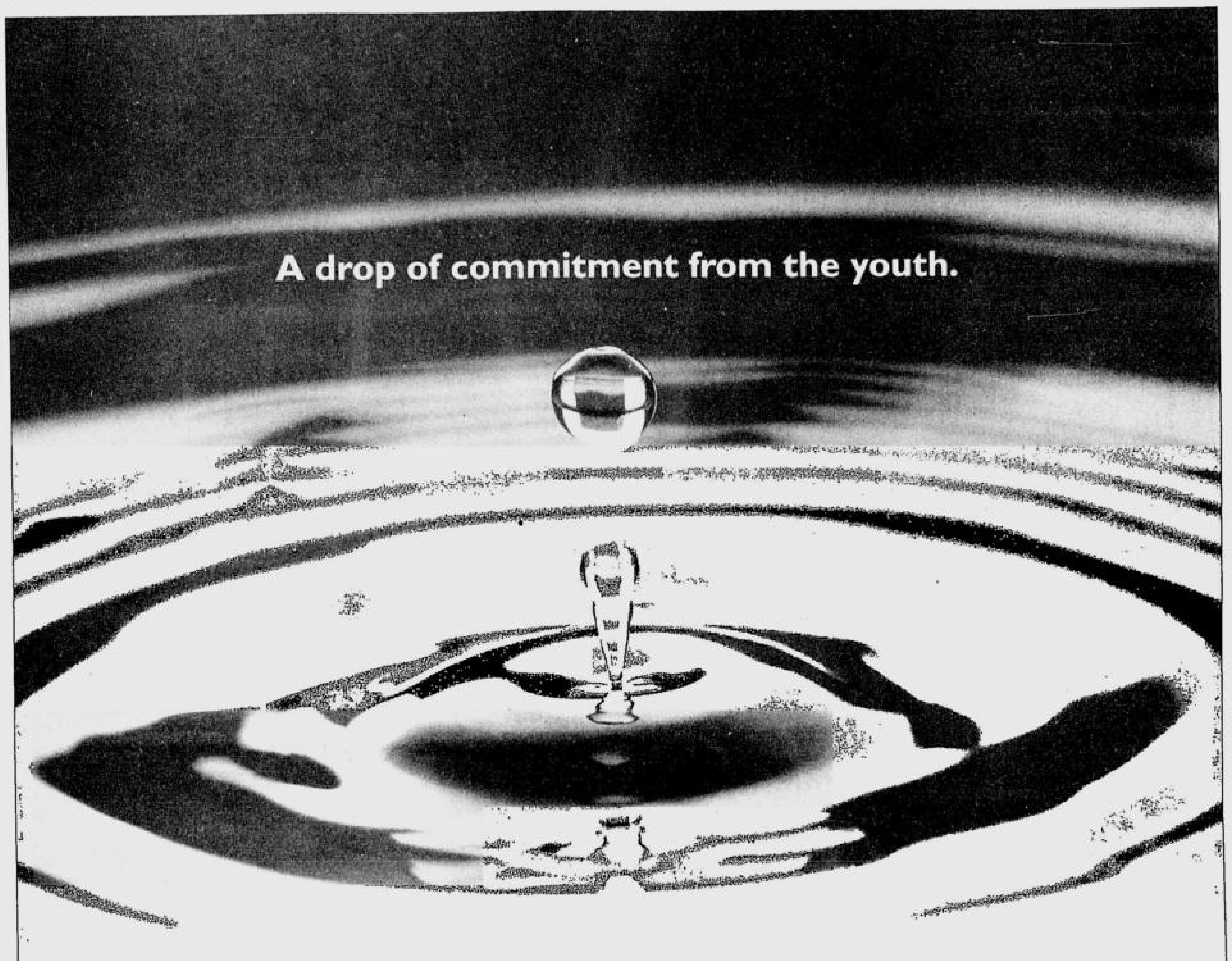

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John Iver Z. Solidum III
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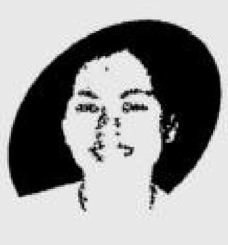
B.S. Nursing

Carlos Alfonso Q. Santos
Cum Laude
UP Manila
Doctor of Medicine

Joemar L. Losaria
John Lacson Colleges Foundation
BS Marine Transportation

Sherlyn L. de Guzman
Ateneo de Manila University
BS Management Engineering

Gizelle Lou M. Cabahug
Summa Cum Laude
Central Mindanao University
AB Political Science


Jenny Lind D. Elmaco
Magna Cum Laude
Silliman University
BA Political Science

Emmeline Y. Aglipay
Magna Cum Laude
De La Salle University
AB Economics

Arlene M. Maneja
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OPINION

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Back to the streets

EDITORIAL

THE LEADERSHIP of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa) has threatened to go back to the streets to protest against the dismissal of Pastor Saycon, secretary general of Copa, from his government job.

Copa made a break with the administration after President Macapagal-Arroyo showed him the door for criticizing her for recruiting opposition members into the government—among them Sen. Blas Ople who has been sought to be foreign secretary.

In sacking Saycon, the President said a "strong republic cannot afford to have termites from within," and her media handlers said the principle involved is that administration officials who could not live with its policies and decisions had to quit.

The exit of Saycon has provoked the first major realignment of political alliances since the President took office on Jan. 19, 2001, ignited by the issue of recruitment of the former administration's allies in the effort to break the paralyzing stalemate in the Senate.

It is doubtful, however, whether Copa's call for mass mobilization over the recruitment issue will bring tens of thousands of people to the streets on the scale of people power demonstrations during the final days of the Estrada administration.

First, the efforts by the Macapagal administration to win converts from the Estrada camp are an incendiary and fundamental issue that can drive angry people to the streets.

While the recruitment of former adversaries into the government's side for the purpose of buying political support is hard to justify, it is not an issue on which to launch mass mobilization.

Copa is neither a mass organization nor the first to be disenchanted with the decisions of the Macapagal administration, but its call for the revival of street action in the manner of Edsa II has its risks. It will show the crowds whether it is capable of staging mass actions that can worry the government and whether its grievances are passionately shared by other members of the so-called "civil society."

After three people power upheavals in 16 years—in which street action was deployed as the weapon to depose the Marcos and Estrada administrations and to try to unseat the Macapagal adminsitration—the people are fatigued with people power as an instrument to bring about political change, let alone express grievances.

A frequent resort to street action to campaign against a sitting government has acquired the character of mob rule and unless there are really fundamental grievances involved, mass action will be hard to mobilize and will not solve such problems as the Senate deadlock.

Among the political actors engaged in the struggle for control of the Senate, there are mechanisms and approaches available to break the deadlock. Mass action will neither break the deadlock nor strengthen institutions through which political conflict may be mediated and resolved.

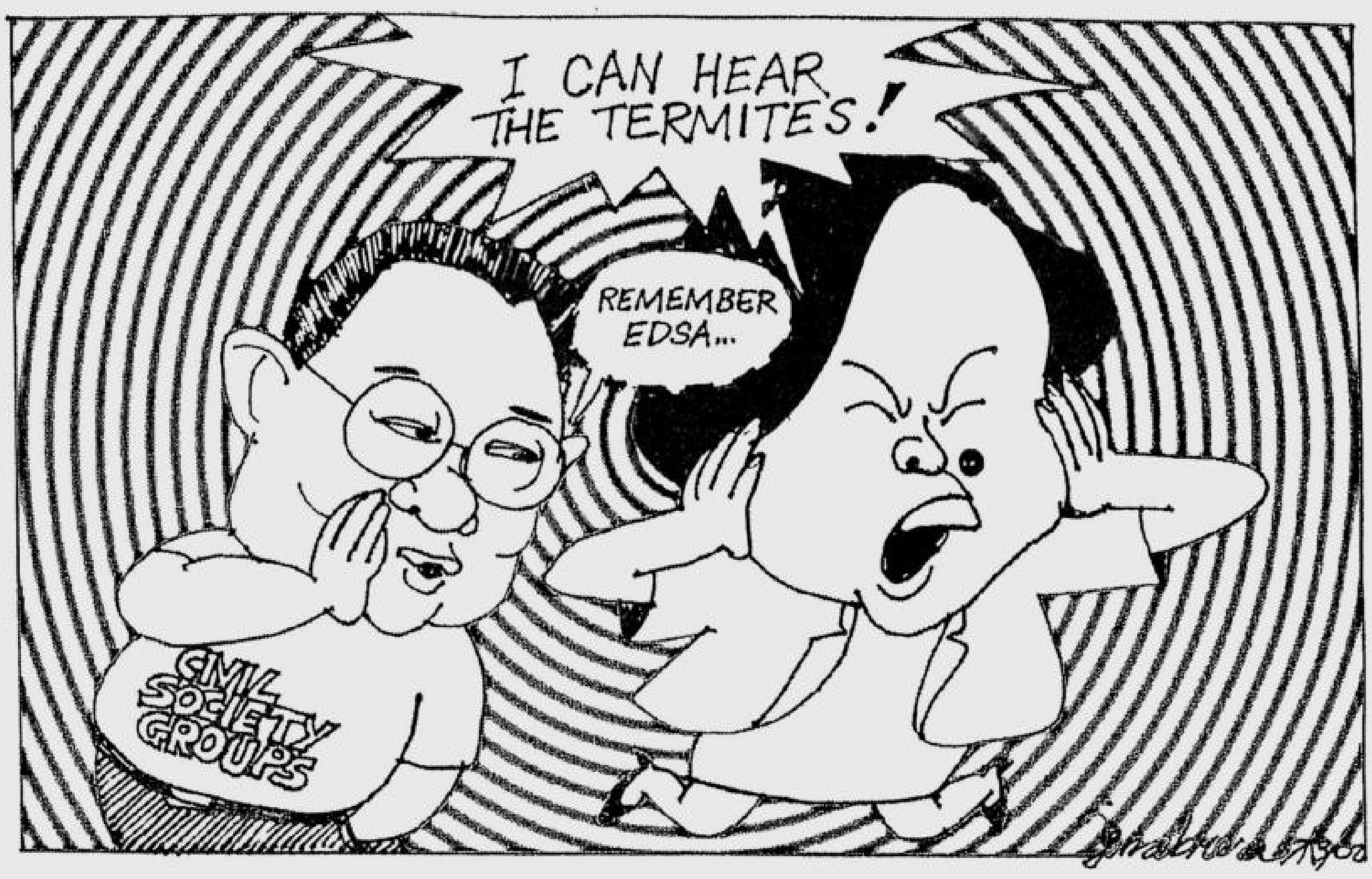
While expelling officials who can't toe the official line can impose a measure of discipline, we don't believe it can bring about a strong republic. Much more is needed to build a strong state.

The resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. as foreign secretary, followed by the dismissal of Saycon, sends the message that the government is determined to have a single voice and perspective on policy. Any official therefore who disagrees has to express his dissent outside of government.

Going to the streets, rather than using institutional means such as opposition parties, to contest the government's political decisions can be a double-edged weapon. It can nurture the habit of using people power to change governments on less than fundamental issues. On the other hand, it can backfire. It can show up the capacity of Copa and other disgruntled civil society groups to mobilize another people power to unhinge governments. Copa could be overestimating its clout.

Alliances tend to break up after their objectives have been achieved. The only issue that glued together organizations opposed to the Estrada administration was the ouster of Estrada. Once Estrada was gone, the coalition that backed Ms Macapagal was bound to disintegrate.

This is what's happening to the Macapagal coalition. Its disintegration is an issue that is not worth inciting another people power action.


I CAN HEAR THE TERMITES!
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CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS

Savage sentence

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I WAS only mildly interested when I read the report about an 11-year-old boy in Pakistan who was found guilty of violating a tribal law for walking unchaperoned with a girl from another village. But I was shocked by the incredible punishment, which was imposed not on the boy but upon his blameless sister. The tribal council ordered her gang-raped to shame their family.

The sentence was carried out by four members of the council, who took turns in ravishing the 18-year-old sister. Outside the room where the outrage was being inflicted on the helpless victim, hundreds of villagers were laughing and cheering. The girl was later sent back to her hut completely naked.

This is one of the most brutal laws I have come across even by primitive standards. Death by stoning, exposure to deadly ants and live burial are common inhumane methods of punishing serious crimes or sometimes even light offenses. But this is the first time I have heard of an innocent girl being multi-raped for the supposed offense of her brother.

The cruelty and foulness of the penalty did not correspond to the degree of the indiscretion being punished. It was especially vile because it was executed by the members themselves of the tribal council that pronounced the judgment. Lust and not justice obviously influenced the sentence that depraved the judges and disgraced the girl.

The local police are investigating the atrocity that has scandalized the whole world. Human rights advocates are up in arms. The UN Human Rights Commission is expected to make an official protest with the government of Pakistan for allowing or at least not actively preventing the outrage. Women's groups are expected to join the outcry because of the contemptuous treatment of their sex.

One of the age-old religious practices in India was (and probably still is) the *suttee*, which required the widow to immolate herself at the funeral pyre of her husband. This was a deeply held religious belief that the wife was required to follow at her husband's cremation. There was no punishment involved, only the conviction that the living wife must perish with her dead husband. The reason probably was so they could journey together to eternity.

Yet, despite the resoluteness of that belief and the religious urge that called for its observance, the British colonial government prohibited the *suttee*. It was a valid exercise of the inherent police power of the State. The police power can protect the individual from his own acts, as when it regulates his liberty to take prohibited drugs or to burn his own house. The *suttee* was outlawed because it was a useless waste of human life and a foolish kind of martyrdom.

Even religious freedom is not without its limitations. As Justice Frankfurter said, "The constitutional provision on religious freedom terminated disabilities, it did not create new privileges. It gave religious liberty, not civil immunity. Its essence is freedom from conformity to religious dogma, not freedom from conformity to law because of religious dogma."

A river held sacred by its worshippers, for example, can be declared off-limits to all, including them, if its currents are deep and dangerous. Offering a human sacrifice may be based on a sincere religious dogma, but it is murder under the law.

That tribal law in Pakistan was not even dignified by religious fervor. It was simply stupid, made more so by the viciousness of the penalty it authorized. The unfortunate victim is reportedly contemplating suicide because of the physical attack upon her honor and the humiliation she suffered while her neighbors cheered and jeered. Those who enforced the sentence by raping her pretended to be administering justice while actually discharging their lasciviousness.

The case reminds me of some of the provisions of our Indigenous People's Rights Act that I challenged in 1999 on constitutional grounds. One of its rules provides that disputes involving indigenous people shall be decided according to their tribal laws. That sounds innocent enough, but shall they have priority over the laws enacted by Congress? We may presume that our own tribal laws are not unjust or inane like those in Pakistan. But a tribal law prevailing over national law? And are those tribal laws enforceable even if not duly published?

In the resolution of the motion for reconsideration of Tañada v. Tuvera, 148 SCRA 446, which I wrote, the Supreme Court held that, to be enforceable, all laws from whatever source should first be duly published in observance of due process. It's bad enough that the IPRA law subordinates national statutes to the tribal laws even if they are not published at all. What is worse is that they are binding even on parties to the dispute who are not members of the tribe and cannot be charged with knowledge of its rules.

The Court was evenly split in this case, with seven for dismissing the petition and the other seven for granting it. The constitutionality of many other dubious provisions of the IPRA law is still an open question because its decision in Cruz v. Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, G.R. 135385, Dec. 6, 2000, was indecisive. I hope that, at an appropriate time, this question will finally be decided on the merits, one way or the other.

A more differentiated look at poverty

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THERE'S at least some good news that came out of the latest Philippine Human Development Report (PHDR 2000). Of course, there is bad news too. But as the song goes, a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down, so let's start with the good news.

One is that while the Philippines may have had a lackluster economic growth performance (since at least 1975), it has done relatively well with regard to human development, as measured by the country's Human Development Index (HDI).

For those who are not familiar with the term, human development is the process of enlarging people's choices, the most essential of which are to live a long and healthy life, to acquire knowledge and to have access to resources needed for a decent standard of living.

The HDI, on the other hand, is a measure—devised by people like Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen and the late Mahbub Ul Haq, who was the originator of the global Human Development Report published by the UNDP—which incorporates the three above-mentioned components. Since its introduction in 1990, the HDI has been almost universally accepted as an alternative measure of development, supplementing (not instead of, mind you) Gross National Product or GNP. The Philippines is the first country to require its compilation as an official statistic.

The underlying rationale for devising such an index was the recognition that incomes do not necessarily translate into outcomes, or alternatively, that economic growth does not automatically result in development. As Ul Haq put it, "We need a measure of the same level of vulgarity as GNP—just one number—but a measure that is not as blind to social aspects of human lives as GNP is."

The closer the HDI is to 1, the better the performance of the area, and the closer it is to 0, the worse. Those with HDI below 0.5 are considered to have low human development; those with 0.8 or higher have high; and those in between have medium human development.

So now, back to the good news:

Among the Philippines' 77 provinces, 64 are considered to be in the medium human development category (actually, Metro Manila, with an HDI exceeding 0.8, is classified as enjoying high human development). The 10 provinces with the highest HDIs as of 2000 were Rizal, Ilocos Norte, Bataan, Cavite, Laguna, Benguet, Bulacan, Misamis Oriental, Iloilo and Pampanga.

Furthermore, between 1997 and 2000, 43 provinces showed improvements in their HDIs. The top gainers were Davao Oriental, Leyte, Mt. Province, Siquijor, South Cotabato, Iloilo, Southern Leyte and Nueva Vizcaya.

What is even more gratifying is that if we rank the provinces from highest (1) to lowest (77) in terms of HDI, and compare this with their ranking (also from highest to lowest) in terms of their real per capita income, we find that several provinces rank at least 10 slots higher in human development than in income. This would tend to mean that these provinces—such as Nueva Ecija, which ranks 60th in per capita income but 27th in HDI—have been able to translate their incomes into relatively better outcomes for their people than the other provinces. They are able to get more human development bang for their buck, as it were. Other provinces which should also be congratulated in this regard are Camarines Sur, Albay, Lanao del Norte, Tarlac, Bohol and Negros Occidental.

Just as income is not considered sufficient as a measure of well-being and should be supplemented by the HDI, so also is income poverty not considered as a sufficient measure of deprivation, and should be supplemented by the so-called Human Poverty Index (HPI)—which is included for the first time in the PHDR 2002.

The HPI measures deprivation in the same three dimensions as the HDI: that is to say, longevity, as measured by the probability at birth of not surviving to age 40; knowledge, as measured by the functional illiteracy rate; and overall economic provisioning as measured by the percentage of people not using improved water sources and the percentage of children who are underweight.

Here the good news is that in 66 of our 77 provinces, human poverty (as measured by HPI) is less, and in many cases, much less, than income poverty (as measured by poverty incidence).

What is more, some provinces are relatively more effective than others in helping the poor, as measured by the larger positive differences between their poverty incidence rank and their HPI rank (where 1 is the least poor and 77 is the most poor). There are 16 provinces whose human poverty rank is better than their income poverty rank by at least 20 rungs. Siquijor, for example, is in the bottom 10 (No. 68) provinces with respect to poverty incidence, but ranks No. 12 in HPI—an improvement of 56 slots. Marinduque shows the same differential. Among the others are Camarines Sur, Mindoro Oriental, Catanduanes, Romblon, Eastern Samar, Nueva Ecija, Albay, Misamis Occidental and Bohol.

The bottom line here is that all these tend to show that we Filipinos, at least those in the provinces mentioned above, are doing something right, because we are managing to maximize the choices that are available to us given our incomes, or to minimize the negative consequences to human development of our income poverty.

Let's hold that thought. We can deal with the bad news later.

JoeCon runs again for Forbes' barangay captain

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

VICE President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona got a healthy round of applause from the undersecretaries, assistant secretaries and other officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday morning as he met with them for the last time as their boss, before stepping down from his post. His stint at the DFA was characterized in large part by the alleged undermining of his authority by a group there, but if he had suffered very much as a result of their actions, Guingona didn't show it at his farewell reception; his exit was cordial and pleasant. He thus loomed bigger than ever.

* * *

Now that he is out of the DFA the question that lingers in the minds of many citizens is, *quo vadis* Tito Guingona? There's speculation that he would join the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa) which appears to have had a falling out with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. News reports said that he is expected as guest of Copa at a mass at the Edsa Shrine this Monday. Guingona has to calibrate his actions very well from hereon, for it's possible that various disgruntled groups are out to use him for their own ends. But I am sure that being a political veteran, he is only too aware of that possibility. There is nothing worse for a politician, or anyone for that matter, than being used against his will. Some of the leaders of civil society, I'm afraid, can be just as manipulative as some of our politicians; some of them are in desperate need of a big political figure to hitch their agenda to.

If the Vice President won a lot of sympathy in recent weeks, it is because the citizens perceive his cause as being pure, and that his one and only agenda has been to guard and preserve the national interest. The moment the "purity" of his motives is challenged, he could lose this sympathy. On guard, Mr. Vice President.

* * *

The barangay elections on Monday are probably going to be most interesting in the barangay of Forbes Park in Makati. This barangay has some 5,000 registered voters but only about 3,000 or so are expected to cast their votes. However, barangay Forbes Park also contains perhaps the densest concentration of wealth in the country, and is in fact the wealthiest barangay around. Running against reelectionist Barangay Captain Joe Concepcion is Enriquito Lagdameo and each of them is campaigning very hard for their own slate of seven candidates for kagawad. In fact, the way the campaign there has heated up, one would think it's the presidency involved.

* * *

Backing JoeCon, who heads Namfrel, is a battery of supporters that includes some of the most prominent names in local society, e.g, Jaime and Bea Zobel de Ayala and their children, Sen. Loren Legarda, Mercy Tuason, Metrobank chair George and Mary Ty, Imelda Cojuangco, the Carlos Elizaldes, the Gokongwei family, Ambassadors Alfonso Yuchengco, Jesus Tambunting and Bienvenido Tantoco, architect Lor Calma and art connoisseur and shipping executive Doris Magsaysay Ho. On the other hand, backing Lagdameo, aside from his own set of prominent personalities, is the political heavyweight in Makati, Mayor Jojo Binay. Interestingly, however, I understand that Binay's allies, Sen. Joker Arroyo and Makati Rep. Teddyboy Locsin, are on JoeCon's side.

* * *

What also makes the barangay elections in Forbes Park very interesting is the fact that for the first time, two working-class representatives are included in the kagawad slate of JoeCon, alongside five from the elite classes. These two candidates are Bong Lansang, the driver of Fernando Zobel, and Janneth Escarlan, a househelper in Forbes Park. Their inclusion in the Concepcion lineup is a concession to the fact that of the 3,000 or so expected to cast their votes in this barangay on Monday, about 60 percent are from the domestic staff of the wealthy families—the househelpers, drivers, cooks, gardeners, etc. JoeCon explained to this columnist that the inclusion of the working class reps in his ticket highlights, among others, the excellent partnership over the months between some 500 homeowners, their helpers and their cooks in working out zero garbage.

* * *

The three-page letter being circulated by JoeCon's allies on his behalf extols the fact that JoeCon "has dedicated most of the past 20 years to public service, to improve the lives of others by preserving their right to choose their leaders." They are obviously referring to his long distinguished record as the fearless Namfrel chair, and in this regard my husband and I have had many direct experiences with JoeCon's selfless dedication to the preservation of the sanctity of the ballot, not only in the Philippines but also in other parts of Asia. As Namfrel chief, JoeCon joined us in Cambodia during its national elections in 1997, the first free elections there since the 1993 elections supervised by the UN; in June 1999 he and my husband brought over 100 Namfrel volunteers to Indonesia to help police its crucial first post-Suharto national elections.

* * *

JoeCon is indisputably Mr. Namfrel, but equally noteworthy has been his work as a delegate in the 1971 Constitutional Convention where he, along with 13 other delegates, defied Marcos and as a result was detained in Camp Crame upon the declaration of martial law. Also worth mentioning is his record as member of the Monetary Board and chair of the Board of Investments, and trade secretary during the Aquino administration. Under JoeCon's leadership, more than 1,500 municipal and city economic councils were established, which provided credit to small entrepreneurs recommended by the private sector committee; this effort was recognized by no less than the Asian Development Bank and US-AID as a model of assistance to small entrepreneurs, where the collection rate was about 95 percent. Today JoeCon tirelessly promotes Philippine trade and industry through his chairmanship of the Asean Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Tourism and culture

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ONE of the issues raised by journalists (Standard's always provocative Isah Red, especially) at the press conference called to announce this year's Bohol Sandugo Festival were the "dangers" posed by opening the island-province to international and local tourism.

What were they doing to ensure that the province would not be overrun by the dark side of tourism, such as prostitution, drugs, rampant commercialism and environmental degradation?

Blessed as it is by lovely beaches and dramatic coral reefs that make for beguiling dive sites, natural attractions like the Chocolate Hills, and historic attractions like ancient churches and missions, there is really no reason why Bohol has had to take the back seat to nearby Cebu and even Boracay. But according to Gardy Labad, a Peta stalwart and renowned film scorer before he chose to move to Bohol, it's precisely this "second tier" status that has given Boholanos the breathing space to cope with the expected onslaught of tourists.

One of their coping mechanisms seems to be cultural enrichment. "We have worked for years to build the cultural heritage of our people," Labad explained, taking justifiable pride in such accomplishments as the formation of the award-winning Loboc Children's Choir and a similarly recognized children's rondalla.

This year's Sandugo Festival, so-called because it commemorates the blood compact between Sikatuna and Legazpi, should bring that cultural enrichment to new heights.

* * *

THE SANDUGO Festival unfolds on Monday, July 15, a joint effort of the Boholano Foreign Friendship Foundation Inc. (BFFFI) headed by longtime resident and resort owner Hans Schoof, in cooperation with the Boholano Sandugo Foundation, the provincial government headed by Gov. Erico Aumentado, and the Tagbilaran City government headed by Mayor Jose Torralba.

Much of the publicity has so far centered on the "Directors' Cut International Film Festival," an unprecedented event supported by most major local film producers and the Directors' Guild of the Philippines. Noted film directors including Maryo J. delos Reyes, Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, Joel Lamangan, Mel Chionglo, Erik Matti and Lav Diaz, will talk on their films and craft while foreign films from France, Germany, Japan, Australia and Spain will likewise be exhibited.

But aside from seeing film directors and personalities in the flesh, tourists and locals will also gain exposure to the international music scene, through the First Philippine International Guitar Festival. Michael Dadap, the internationally acclaimed Boholano guitarist now based in New York, will perform in an international "Concert for Peace" with Bertholt and Gisela Lied from Germany.

Dadap and the Lieds will be joined by eminent Filipino guitarists Raul Manikan, Butch Roxas, Lester Demetillo, Ruben Reyes and Jo Valdes, the UP, UST and PWU guitar ensembles, sitar player Joey Valenciano and tabla drummer Charanjit Singh from India. Truly, a major international artistic event!

And as if this wasn't enough of a draw, Dadap reveals that he had just "imported" environmentalist Odette Alcantara to educate communities on composting and recycling, to cope with the trash to be generated during the festival. Say what you will, but I'm optimistic about Bohol's chances of surviving the hordes of tourists they're waiting for.

* * *

SEARCHING for some meaningful entertainment? Click your remote to GMA-Channel 7 late tomorrow (Sunday) night to catch "Aawitan Kita," which features "Halik ng Kahapon," the "period" plot of the modern zarzuela "Alikabok."

Written by Noel Balmaceda with music by Ryan Cayabyab, "Alikabok" tells the stories of two Filipinas—one who lived at the time of the revolution against Spain, and the other living in contemporary times—and how their life stories intersect. The "Aawitan Kita" episode covers the story of Bising Vallejo, a well-born young woman who turns her back on her class by marrying Ignacio, her Katipunero suitor.

Directed by Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, the segment was shot in ancestral homes in Taal, Batangas and Bulacan and is filled with fascinating historical details. A most beguiling number was that on the "hidden language" employed by daughters of the elite in communicating with their suitors. With the use of fans and kerchiefs, the young women sent coded messages, managing to convey their favor or disfavor to suitors even as social conventions frowned on direct and open communication between the sexes.

Young performer Cris Villongco portrays Bising while Jeffrey Hidalgo is the stalwart Ignacio. Bodgie Pascua is impressive as Don Simeon, who allows his grief and sense of propriety to lead him into meddling in his daughter's life.

* * *

"ALIKABOK" is an original stage production of Musical Theatre Philippines, whose founders Celeste Legaspi and Girlie Rodis have committed to the staging of original Filipino musicals. "Aawitan Kita," produced by Armida Siguion-Reyna, has likewise been struggling to keep local musical tradition alive on TV, seeking to give today's audience continuing access to the songs and stories of the past.

The richness of our culture is out there for the taking, thanks to passionate champions like Armida and her family, Celeste, Girlie and the artists who deem this seemingly hopeless crusade worth their while. Parents and educators who bemoan young people's lackluster love for country and disdain for everything Filipino, without making the effort to make these offerings available to the youth, have only themselves to blame.

Philippine ivories in Mexico

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

AS they say beg, borrow or steal...Margarita Estella's "Ivories From the Far Eastern Provinces of Spain and Portugal," is a huge tome of over 350 pages published in 1997 that "constitutes the most complete collection of ivory work developed in the Far Eastern provinces of Spain and Portugal." If you get the chance—grab it. The book showcases the collection of a Mexican collector who has amassed 150 pieces of ivory sculptures by Filipinos from the 16th to the 19th century. For the local collector, of course it's a moment of "eat your heart out" but others can observe how the West came into contact with Asia and how the two cultures were fused in these religious figures.

Use your imagination and see the East from the time of Philip II and Magellan interpreting the sacred images of the West with Asian sensibility. Listen to these examples: "The July 23, 1767 inventory of the church of Our Lady of Solitude (Nuestra Sra. De la Soledad) in Antequera, now the city of Oaxaca whose coast faced the Pacific Ocean. The altar was composed of 22 gilded columns and 28 canvases. It included three ivory figures of Sta. Rosa de Lima, San Nicolas, San Lorenzo and a Crucified Christ hanging from a cross complete with corner bands, a legend and silver nails. Over the crystal niche of Our Lady (ivory as well) held together by silver bands was a small ivory San Miguel. At the center of the *reredos*, in the middle section, was a Calvary made of ivory with the Christ, San Juan, the Virgin and Maria Magdalena. In effect there were over 10 ivory sculptures in one altarpiece, a wonder that was probably typical of the pre-war altars of the Philippines before they were either destroyed during the war or looted afterwards."

There exists in Mexico inventories of ivory pieces in many sacristies and churches, and in private collections something which we have not managed to convince many provincial parishes to initiate. The use of these inventories for identification and ownership purposes is obvious in case of theft. The photos could as well be published in newspapers to warn the public that trafficking in stolen goods is a crime. (As of this writing more antique pieces from Bohol have been stolen.)

Ivory works were one of the prized items loaded into galleons that traversed the Pacific Ocean for the ports of Mexico during those 200 years of the trade. Despite the fact that many were destroyed in man-made calamities like the burning and looting of the church of Our Lady of Solitude in 1861 during the political turmoil of the Reform in Mexico, subsequent robberies and the possible destruction of pieces to make piano keys "which required the presence of an ecclesiastical authority to supervise the operation," the number of items in the Sada Gonzalez collection is still impressionable.

The text carries interesting stories too such as a trial for idolatry in 1787 and the Sto Niño that details private practices with regard to worship. "Miguel and Nicolas Lozano owned an image, an heirloom handed down over generations, of the Holy Child of Sibu (Sto Niño de Cebu), crafted in ivory (1786). Jose Albino Lozano...son of Agustin Lozano, took Jacinto Rodriguez, a free Mulatto from Juchitlan of the Azoyu parish 'asserting the marvels of that unknown God owned as an inheritance.' The local priest, upon discovering the existence of the image, solicited information: If it was venerated in church, at home or in the woods, what name would it be given; what was the meaning of those who worshipped, when they lit candles to it, and what adoration and prayers would it receive."

The largest selection pertains to images of the Crucified Christ followed by images representing the Virgin Mary. Then there are the shining examples of the Sto Niño like a 17th century, 55.5-cm free-standing sculpture. The child stands naked, his head "covered with an aureole of light brown curls, sculpted in flattened strands and crafted in a natural style, in disarray over his wide forehead." There is another of this type in Santa Maria de Mediavilla in Medina de Rioseco in Valladolid and in the collection of Diez del Corral.

St. Michael the Archangel is represented by four figures prized because of their rarity. (The Church in Argao, Cebu had a magnificent piece of solid ivory some 30 cm that was bought by a Pampango agent called Mamerto, according to his story to me.) Unique pieces are those of the Baptism of Christ, the Resurrected Christ, The Holy Family and the Trinity.

The heartbreaking part, of course, is that our National Museum has nothing comparable and that the poor Filipino will continue believing his culture is "*bale wala*" because he doesn't have the temples and the pyramids and whatever he has is neglected or scorned.

The value of the book however lies in its tracing of the development of the art of religious ivory sculpture, its stylistic development in the 17th and 18th centuries and religious iconography. It should spur us to the need for preservation and maintenance of whatever may remain of the Intramuros Collection which may not represent anything of value to the majority but who knows—perhaps someday there may be officials who may see the value of culture that isn't "folksy."

Coffee

IT runs in my veins; it's part of who I am...so much a part, that there isn't an event of my life where it's not involved. Until this day, my cup of java tells me who I am, who I've become. It's not surprising, since my love affair with Voltaire's slow poison has spanned nearly two decades.

YOUNG BLOOD

Jaime Elias Manansala

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

When I was younger, a skinny, lactose-intolerant runt of about 6 or so, my coffee was black, but sweet, really sweet. Half a teaspoon of Nescafé, two or three heaping teaspoons of brown sugar, and I was all set to dig into my buttered hot *pan de sal* or garlic-rich *sinangag* and *tuyo*. Times were hard back then; living in a converted garage, sleeping on a cold wooden floor or a rickety cot, the rain and the wind dripping through rusted eaves, money always tight. Times were hard, yes, but the sky was free. When one is young, and if one has the parents I have, life is a joy. It has to be, there are no other options. One has to make life a joy, otherwise growing up happens faster. If you don't get the bike promised to you, there's always next year, if not the year after that. If you see another kid with a remote control, no big deal; you've got the coolest collection of paper airplanes. If you see a big house, you boast back, "Well, my house has a waterfall inside the kitchen. What have you got?" When you're young and poor, bitterness is masked, swallowed with a whistle and a grin, disguised by immature bravado.

Life didn't change much through the years. I survived being a joke in elementary school and had the good fortune of being accepted in a prestigious school far from home. For a while I believed that my optimism had paid off, that I had been proven right in my unswerving belief in miracles. Then came the afternoon of Monday, July 16, 1990.

My hometown was shattered by the earthquake that day. I was one of those who demanded to see the news at six o'clock sharp, once picking a fight in the process and thus getting my nose broken.

I discovered the harshness of life that held sway over my family while I was in relative comfort. I deemed it unacceptable; I forced myself to grow up. I made a decision: I allowed myself to be kicked out of school by successfully pretending to be a total dunce at math, something I was a bit of a whiz at.

What I did, I know, broke my parents' hearts, for no one else put so much faith in me. Knowing that they would never allow me to sacrifice for their sake, I never told them why I left, only that I couldn't cut it out there. They were disappointed with me; they believed I had let them down, that I let our family down. I was, in their eyes, a failure.

My coffee, those days, was without sugar, black, scalding, and bitter. Often heard were asides about how nasty, and at times, vicious, I had become. That the once sweet kid was now a sarcastic, cynical juvenile, a rebel waiting to happen. My motivation to strive for honors was no longer for the happiness of my family, but my defiance against the branding of "failure."

Looking back and remembering who I was then, I am now and will always be thankful for the patience of those who knew me well, although not privy to my secret. Those who bore with me in high school gave me solace in ways I once thought impossible.

Knowing I was capable of it, shortly after high school graduation I again gave up all offers from prestigious universities, so that my siblings might have better chances. No little bitterness was involved, however, like a legendary samurai I gave my decision to my family without it showing on my face. Yet I have to admit that no little pride was involved, that I felt empowered by the ability to sacrifice. Strange, but true: those who know the bitterness and hardship of poverty feel a certain pride in knowing that they can laugh in its face.

I entered college with my coffee slightly sweetened. Life was tough, and from all sides it threw all the lances it could muster, but who cared? To surmount challenges without fear was the norm, and it was exhilarating. My eyes were fixed five years hence; I was slaving for the day that I would receive my diploma, succeeding in a course that was my next-to-last choice, in a university without the luster of those I had given up.

Barely nine months in college I discovered CoffeeMate.

All career-driven young men whose priorities do not involve close interpersonal relationships, and who believe they can survive without them, are the easiest to fall prey to the song of the siren called Love. At some point they crash into the rocks, entranced by the beauty of a life that has become full, promised by a shy smile, a kind gesture, or (as I try to convince myself) the testosterone levels in the bloodstream.

It is still with incredulity that I can remember a cynical young man groping out of his shell to try to establish a connection with an angel, whose words didn't drip with acid like mine had, whose face bore smiles and not the smirks I had, who saw the stars in the night instead of the darkness that I enveloped myself in. Thus began when coffee and CoffeeMate made sense, sweeter when shared, even over matters as trivial as being on time for class.

Unthinkable as it may seem to someone like me, I found myself giving up afternoon coffee at the *tambayan*. No other way could I stretch my measly allowance to afford to see her home safely. No other way could I find the means to afford decent paper to pen inconsequential mushy doggerel.

In retrospect, it was the day when I realized that I had to accept the impossibility of us hooking up that I gave up CoffeeMate. I had not given up hope, though; my coffee was laced by the bare minimum of sugar needed to take away its bite. For years, and perhaps to this day, I dreamed as any romantic in denial would, that someday we'd meet again and start over. But like any dream, any illusion, it had to be put in its proper place. Finally, after squashing the warm emotion I had felt and stuffing it into a dark closet somewhere, I began to move on, with fond memories of the past that never happened. Life goes on, I learned, so I had to.

It was in this turbulent phase that I discovered my addiction was shared by some of the people I met in those days. Our bonding was caffeine-laced, not surprisingly, and afternoons and early evenings were spent sharing joys and sorrows, failures and triumphs, over endless rounds of cheap instant coffee at our *tambayan*; caffeine was the mortar that cemented our friendship. Now that our days are spent trying to secure our futures, some of us far from home, whenever we can we relive the ritual of coffee and conversation, our ties stronger through the years. Even if it's just Nescafé at ten bucks a cup, it's worth every centavo and more, with people such as they. Knowing that they've been here for me as much as coffee has been.

My life, like my coffee, hasn't changed much. In fact, it's much tougher being in the real world. Hardship is our lot, who are not born in privilege; one merely has to accept that life isn't peaches and cream, just as one has to accept that plain coffee is bitter. When I can, I treat myself to a large mug of fresh java, black and strong, not too sweet, with a bit of mint or cinnamon (or when on vacation back home, a spot of brandy) to spice it up.

What does this say about who I am now? You tell me.

Jaime Elias Manansala, 24, works as an engineer in a manufacturing firm in the Calabarzon area

Buffer zone in Pandacan depot must be planned well

REGARDING the Pandacan oil depot, I think everyone must recognize that drastic action is not an option due to infrastructure constraints. It is quite obvious that the road and rail systems are not adequate for extremely high-volume tanker traffic constantly moving into and out of Manila. Which is why Pandacan, in its urban setting and with direct access to the waterway, is the best location for fuel storage. Without a cohesive distribution system to replace the current set-up, the transfer simply cannot be carried out. So, the intermediate phase that Mayor Lito Atienza acceded to is in reality the only feasible option.

Which is not to say, however, that safety concerns should be compromised. Under the circumstances, Manila city officials should focus on safeguards. To serve its purpose, the proposed buffer zone should completely set back the residential area from the industrial zone.

Right now, this cannot be done because of a storage facility called Nagtahan Terminals Inc., which is visible from the flyover crossing. The Pandacan oil depot is evidently occupied by multiple users due to the existence of varied signages inside the compound. At street level, this depot is located at an intersection surrounded by residential and commercial structures. Yet, it is hardly mentioned in news reports and is apparently not even a party to the compromise agreement that calls for the creation of a buffer zone.

This is one aspect which proper safeguarding can address. In redefining its policy, the Manila city officials should perhaps set exact standards for the creation of the buffer zone, specifically outer and inner limits and a defined distance that must be maintained between the residential area and the industrial zone. In setting these standards, the entire Pandacan area must be considered, not just one or another facility. Otherwise, the buffer zone will just be another haphazard development requiring yet another rezoning.

—CHRISTOPHER G. HELDER,
Rm. 501 Holiday Inn,
UN Avenue, Manila

Not a graduate of UST residency training

IN BEHALF of the Division of Dermatology of the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital, I would like to call attention to the wrong information implied in the front-page article published on the July 4, 2002 issue of the INQUIRER titled, "Vicky Belo, doctors at odds over ads" written by Armand N. Nocum and Leah Salterio.

In the 13th paragraph of the continuation of the article on Page A9, it was stated that "Belo took up pre-med B.S. Psychology at the University of the Philippines and completed her medical studies specializing in dermatology, at the University of Sto. Tomas."

While Dr. Vicky Belo may have finished her medical studies in UST, she did not have her specialization in dermatology at our institution. The UST Hospital offers a three-year residency training program for specialization in dermatology duly accredited by the Philippine Dermatological Society. This residency training is taken by qualified physicians after their internship and subsequent passing of the Philippine licensure examination. Belo is not a graduate of our residency training program.

—ARNELFA C. PALIZA, M.D.,
chair, division of dermatology,
University of Sto. Tomas
Hospital, España,
Manila

Teachers rely on loans

"MY father has to mortgage properties. My mother has to loan..." So goes the advertisement for an educational plan company.

Now 52 years old and with a disabled husband, it has never been my practice to mortgage our property. But I do apply for loans in order to finance my children's schooling. My two kids are both in college and I have no other income but the one coming from the profession I love most, teaching.

I am really bothered by speculations that our policymakers may decide to increase our current net take-home pay of P3,000. Honestly, when the net pay level was increased recently from P2,000, I found it very difficult to provide for the needs of my kids. Since low-salaried civil servants like me really have to depend on loans to survive, a higher net take-home pay gives us fewer opportunities to borrow money. This is the harsh reality: we have to rely on loans just to provide for our basic needs.

Our lawmakers and policymakers must take this reality into careful consideration. Why don't they just give the teachers salary increases instead?

—NANCY D. HULLEZA, Mariano
Marcos M.H. School, Quezon City

We should all help Fernando

CONGRATULATIONS to MMDA chair Bayani Fernando for putting his foot down and working toward making Metro Manila livable again. As Fernando buckles down to work, so should we. Fernando is not a superman, he can't do it all by himself. It's time we stopped whining and griping and start helping.

Motorists, the yellow traffic light does not mean go faster. It means slow down, then stop. And how about actually following what those yellow lines painted on the road tell us: no overtaking, no swerving?

Pedestrians, there are overpasses and underpasses. We paid for those with our taxes, we might as well use them. Let's stop crossing just anywhere we want. We should take the effort to walk up to the corner before crossing. It's good exercise and we don't get drivers screeching to a halt cursing us.

Commuters, let's use whatever terminal and PUV stop Fernando assigns. And don't berate the driver for not dropping you off as soon as you say *"para."*

Residents, it's called garbage segregation. It's fairly easy: set aside two trash cans, one for recyclables and the other for real garbage.

Everyone, please help tell the street cleaners that sweeping rubbish straight into the drainage contributes to flooding. And while we're at it, why not stop throwing trash outside the vehicle window?

Now, those aren't too difficult to do, are they?

And finally, Mr. Fernando, after the big roads and the sidewalks, can we do something about those pedicabs and tricycles?

—CARMELEA SEE, 32 Anda
corner Cabildo St.,
Intramuros, Manila

Can GMA not live with the enemy?

THE UNREPENTANT admission of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that she made "political mistakes left and right" is reminiscent of President Diosdado Macapagal's *"mea culpa"* Sona 38 years ago when he humbly admitted his mistakes. His public apology was neither combative nor insincere. He had no alibis. He blamed no one. He pledged to do his best. He lost his bid for reelection, but won public esteem.

In contrast, Ms Macapagal unabashedly crowed that her "mistakes are not on economic policies" (as if the same were totally divorceable from flawed political judgment). Confrontational, and so unlike her "Ina ng Bayan" image portrayal, she rationalized rather haughtily by shifting blame to critics who don't recognize her as a "plodder and hard worker."

As the country's No. 1 politician, albeit erratic, she is asking us to "keep faith" with her. She, who should be given credit for the so-called "macro economic growth" —however abstract and meaningless that means to discontented income-classes.

She will continue to make mistakes if the Malacañang inventoried market of ideas should not exclude purchasing "Senate independence" at all costs. Its integrity is not for sale and its self-respect for compromise. Without credibility, the Senate is kaput, therefore, inutile. Senate records show that the opposition under Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., crossed party lines to actively support vital legislation pushed by Malacañang, e.g., Power Sector Restructuring Act, Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2002 National Budget and the Absentee Voting. Maverick Pimentel would not want to squander his legislative respectability for narrow, temporary partisan interests.

Can't the President live with an opposition majority in the Senate? That's part of the working mechanics of a democratic legislature. She should credit them for being constructive oppositionists rather than partisan obstructionists. She will grow magnificently taller working with them. She can try it. It's good for her political health.

Instead of raiding the ranks of the opposition, she should pursue in a statesmanlike manner and on high moral ground, the new politics of constructive democratic tolerance, instead of partisan thought control and party regimentation. Else, she is fast metamorphosing into the epitome of a consummate traditional politician. Such desperate efforts are hallmarks of a political *desperado.*

Mark Twain should be credited for this text joke: "Our brain is divided into two parts: Left and Right. But to the politician who makes mistakes Left and Right, the problem is: the Left has nothing Right and the Right has nothing Left in it."

—LUTGARDO B. BARBO, chief of
staff, Senate Majority Leader
Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., 6/F GSIS
Bldg., Roxas Boulevard,
Pasay City

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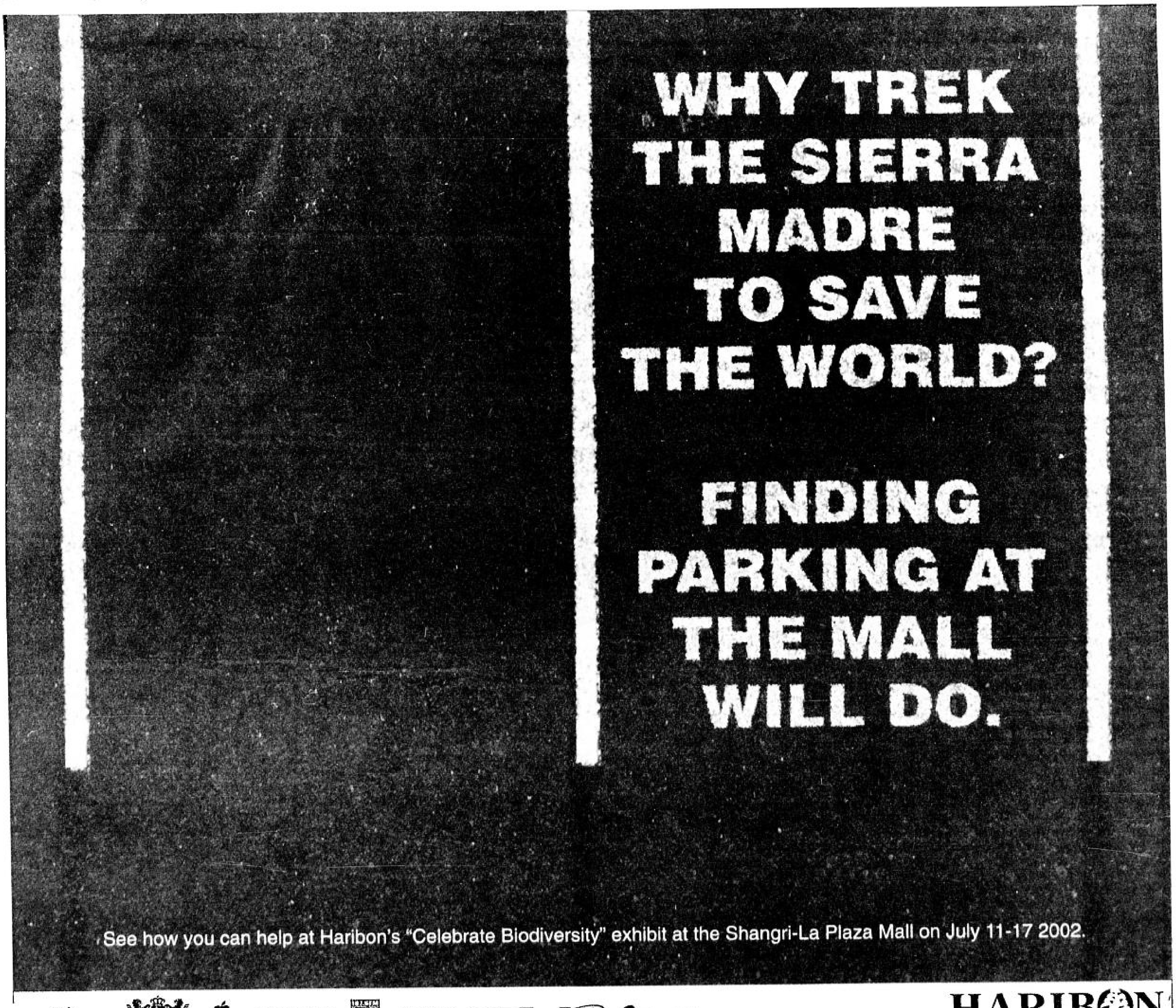

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bush gained from deals he wants banned

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush received low-interest loans more than a decade ago from an oil company where he served as a director, benefiting from boardroom deals he now wants banned as part of a crackdown on corporate misconduct, records obtained on Thursday show.

The White House said the 1986 and 1988 loans from Harken Energy Corp. were "entirely appropriate and fully disclosed" to the Securities and Exchange Commission. "What has happened in recent years is that there have been abuses and there is a need to reform, and that's what the president is doing," White House spokeswoman Claire Buchan said.

But revelations about the two Harken loans totaling more than $180,000 first reported by The New York Times and The Washington Post and confirmed by SEC records, could bolster Democratic efforts to brand Bush a hypocrite for not practicing the good business policies he preaches.

"It is hard to lead when you haven't done the things that you're asking others to do," said Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri, the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives.

"It puts him (Bush) in a difficult position to criticize others," said Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat who urged the administration and the SEC to fully disclose Bush's business dealings with Harken Energy.

The low-interest loans allowed Bush to buy 105,000 Harken shares through a stock option program for senior officials, according to filings by Bush and Harken Energy with the SEC.

Bush on Tuesday called on companies to stop offering these types of loans to corporate officers as part of a broader crackdown on controversial business dealings and accounting irregularities.

Companies have increasingly provided low-interest loans to top executives, but the practice was assailed after WorldCom Inc. reported massive accounting irregularities last month. WorldCom Chief Executive Bernard Ebbers resigned in April under pressure over the company's huge debts and a $408 million low-interest loan that he received.

"Corporate officers should not be able to treat a public company like their own personal bank," a senior administration official said this week of Bush's proposal.

The White House had hoped Bush's call for a crackdown on corporate misconduct would help stem the political fallout from corporate scandals. But stocks have since tumbled to lows last seen in 1997 and Democrats have cranked up pressure on the issue they hope will resonate with voters through November's congressional elections.

"The administration would do well to take some of its own medicine and make itself more transparent to the American public," said Sen. Robert Byrd, a West Virginia Democrat. *Reuters*

Turkey gov't splinters; more upheavals seen

ANKARA—Turkey was braced for fresh defections from ailing premier Bulent Ecevit's part after the foreign minister quit, but crisis-hit investors gained some relief after the econom minister was persuaded to stay on.

Financial markets have been wracked wit fears the impasse in Ankara, caused by Ecevit ill health and long periods away from his desl could ruin a $16 billion International Monetary Fund deal.

This was designed to drag Turkey out of i worst recession since 1945, wrought by tw successive crises since 2000.

Ismail Cem, the pro-European Union forei minister credited with forging a thaw in tis with historic rival and neighbor Greece, resigned on Thursday after five years in the po.

He was the seventh minister to dese Ecevit's Democratic Left Party (DSP) and iso hold a news conference on Friday, whih could serve as a rallying cry for DSP deputis to join the 30 or so who have quit already.

But Economy Minister Kemal Dervis, a noparty technocrat recruited after the secod crisis erupted in February 2001, said he hd withdrawn his resignation upon Ecevit's request just hours after offering it—again, at te premier's request.

Fighting to retain his slipping grasp o power, Ecevit issued an emotional statemet urging the former DSP deputies to return to te party he and his wife founded in the 1980s.

"Some of our friends are serving the puposes of those circles who want to destroy t DSP, they are falling into a trap," he said in h first public statement since his rightist coalitio partners sparked a crisis on Sunday by demanding elections be held early, in Novembe

Illness has sidelined the 77-year-old veeran premier from normal duties since ear May, allowing simmering tensions to overwhelm his three-way governing coalition odds over sensitive political reforms needed t meet EU standards. *Reuter*

US lacks votes to swing global court proposals

UNITED NATIONS—The United States faec an uphill battle on Thursday in getting enoug votes for its compromise proposals to exemp American soldiers and civilians from the jurisdiction of a new global court for one year.

While Security Council members, meetng late in the day, welcomed concessions by Washington, at least six said they were ot acceptable without further changes, diplomats reported.

All council members preferred a French draft, which was more in line with what th considered the spirit and letter of a 19 Rome treaty creating the International Criminal Court, which came into existence on Ju 1.

But the United States made clear it wou veto the French draft and make no furthe substantive changes in its own text.

"What you see is what you get," US Ambassador John Negroponte was quoted as tellin council members, despite talks in Washingto between Secretary of State Colin Powell an French Foreign Minister Dominique d Villepin.

British Ambassador Sir Jeremy Greenstoc this month's council president, had hoped fo a vote on Friday but conceded it might be delayed until Monday, the deadline for extending peacekeepers in Bosnia that the Unite States had vetoed on July 1 until the court dispute was settled.

"The differences between those texts hav not been resolved," Greenstock told reporter As for his own country, he said: "We can quit clearly go with anything that France and th United States would sort out between them.

In addition to France, diplomats reporte that Ireland, Norway, Colombia, Mexico an Mauritius said they were not in a position support the American text without change thereby prompting heavy US lobbying in capitals. *Reute*

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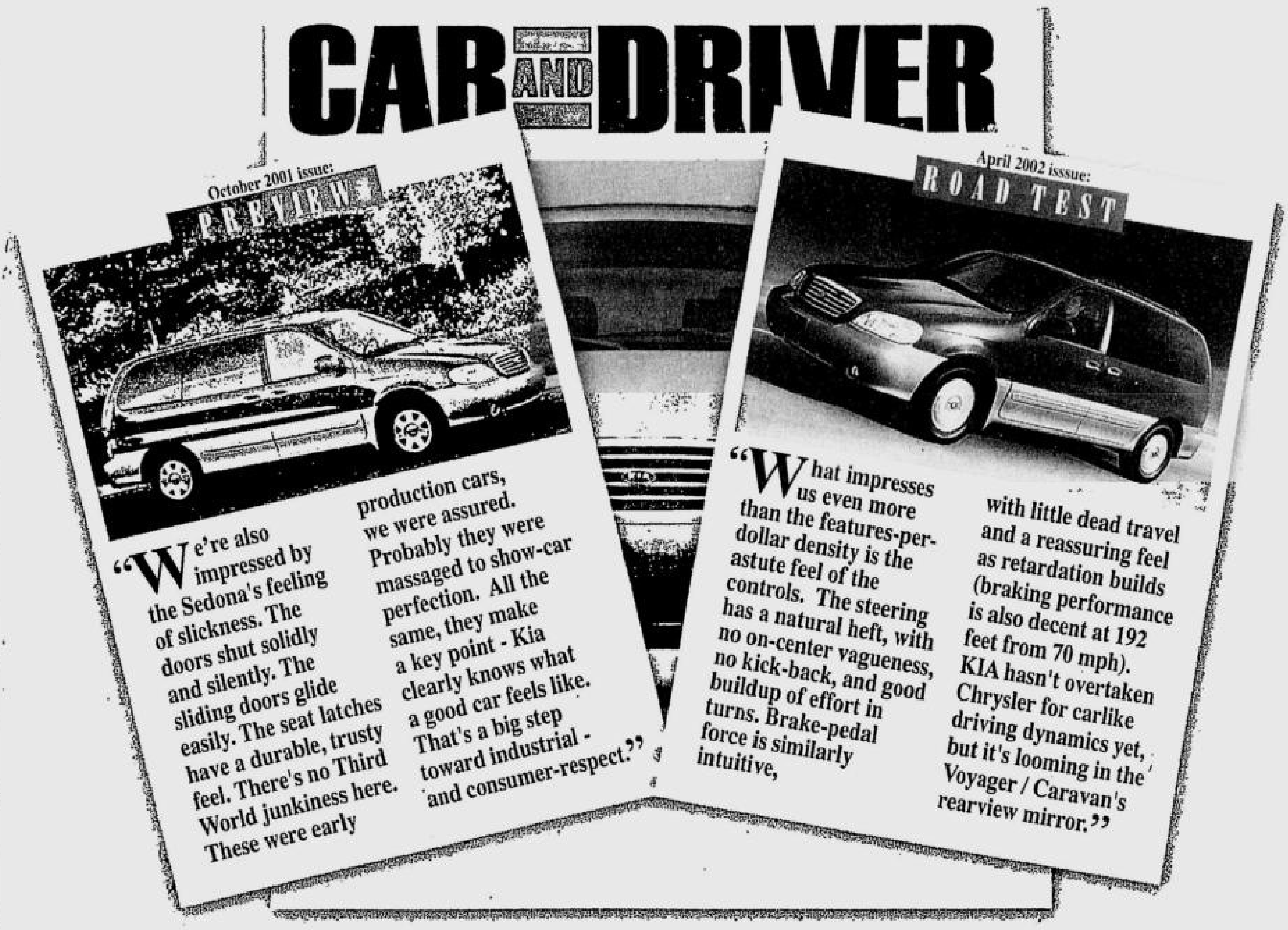
CAR AND DRIVER
October 2001 issue: PREVIEW
April 2002 issue: ROAD TEST

"We're also impressed by the Sedona's feeling of slickness. The doors shut solidly and silently. The sliding doors glide easily. The seat latches have a durable, trusty feel. There's no Third World junkiness here. These were early production cars, we were assured. Probably they were massaged to show-car perfection. All the same, they make a key point - Kia clearly knows what a good car feels like. That's a big step toward industrial - and consumer-respect."

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Ford Econoline	★★★★	★★★★	not tested	not tested
Chrysler Town/Country	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Dodge Caravan	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★

*available as public information from http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ncap

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Man who taped police beating arrested in LA

LOS ANGELES—The man who videotaped a police beating near Los Angeles that enraged black leaders and then dodged a grand jury inquiry into the matter was arrested on Thursday as he prepared to grant a television interview.

Mitchell Crooks was taken into custody on warrants issued in northern California for petty theft and drunken driving. Authorities also served him with a subpoena to testify before the Los Angeles County grand jury.

Crooks' arrest was videotaped and broadcast on local KCAL-TV, showing undercover officers hustling him into a sports utility vehicle with tinted windows outside the studios of CNN as the 27-year-old man repeatedly screamed for help.

Crooks had failed to appear on Thursday morning at Los Angeles Superior Court, where the grand jury was meeting, after telling a local radio program that he feared for his life.

"All we're doing is arresting him on the basis of a warrant," Los Angeles County District Attorney's spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said. "If there had not been a warrant, we would have escorted him to the grand jury."

The tape sparked cries of racism and comparisons to the incendiary 1991 beating of Rodney King, which was also videotaped. The acquittal of four Los Angeles officers in that case led to the worst urban riots in modern US history. ***Reuters***

Amnesty raps Palestinian suicide attacks; US assails Israeli raid

JERUSALEM—Human rights watchdog Amnesty International condemned Palestinian suicide attacks against Israeli civilians as crimes against humanity on Thursday and demanded they end immediately.

"(We) urge the Palestinian Authority to arrest and bring to justice those who order, plan or carry out attacks on civilians," Amnesty said in a hard-hitting report.

The criticism of the Palestinians was unusual from a group that has often faulted Israel over its use of force to try to quell a 21-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation in the West bank and Gaza Strip.

Yet Israel still found itself under fire. The United States rebuked it over a raid this week in which police closed the office of moderate Palestinian official Sari Nusseibeh, adding its voice to the criticism of some leftist government ministers.

The dispute over the raid is unlikely to sour Israel's strong ties with Washington, which provides it with $3 billion in annual aid and is the key power broker in the conflict.

Israel signaled its own determination to deter Palestinian militants by saying it would take the unusual step of giving jailed Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouthi a public trial in a civilian court on allegations of orchestrating attacks.

Palestinians charged with involvement in attacks against Israelis are usually tried in military courts. Giving Barghouthi a civilian trial will raise publicity for the case against the general secretary of Arafat's Fatah movement in the West Bank.

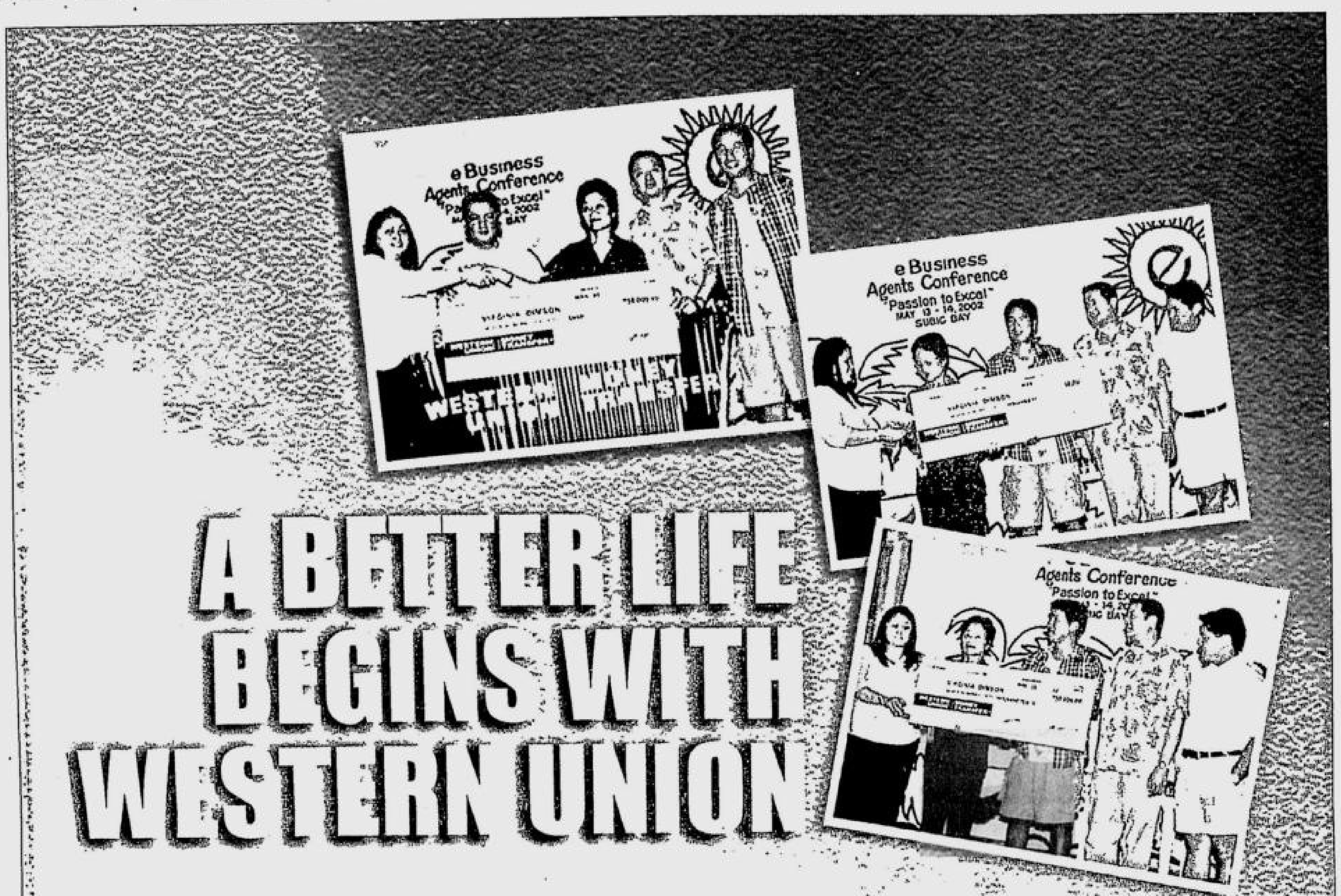
"Military court trials have less exposure and we want the public to see the evidence and know justice was done," Justice Ministry spokesman Jacob Galanti said.

He said no decision had been taken on when the trial would begin. Barghouthi, 42, denies the Israeli allegations against him and his lawyer said Barghouthi had begun a hunger strike on Thursday to protest against his jail conditions.

Amnesty took aim at Palestinian militants in its seventh report on the human rights situation since the September 2000 eruption of the Palestinian uprising for an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It said the Palestinian attacks on civilians violated "fundamental principles of humanity which are reflected in international humanitarian law. In the manner in which they are being committed . . . they also amount to crimes against humanity."

The report said 350 Israeli civilians had been killed in attacks staged by Palestinian nationalist and Islamic groups over the past 21 months. ***Reuters***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What's in store for a 62-year old housewife after all her kids have already gone their respective ways to lead their own lives?

Virginia Dimson is a fine example of an independent woman who likes to live her life productively. After all her eight children finished college, she opted to manage a soft drink distribution business, which delivers an average of 100 cases a day. Despite her financial independence, two daughters in the USA and Canada still send money to her through Western Union's Money Transfer service for the past 10 and 6 years respectively.

A very pleasant surprise greeted Virginia last March when she received a phone call informing her that she was the lucky winner in Western Union's "Win A Dream Home Promotion". "Akala ko nga nanloloko lang, marami kasing mga scam ngayon di ba? " Virginia said with a laugh. "Pero tinawagan ako ulit at ng makausap ko, tuwang-tuwa ako. Totoo palang ako ang nanalo."

Western Union's "Win a Dream Home Promo" was open to Philippine residents 18 years old and above. Customers participated by availing of a Western Union passbook at participating Western Union outlets. Each transaction at any Western Union location entitled customers to a sticker attached to a page of their passbook. Three stickers in a page entitled the customers to a raffle coupon and a gift of their choice, ranging from caps, wallets, t-shirts or phone books. The raffle also served as a passageway to a free house & lot!

Virginia plans to use part of her prize money as partial payment for a house & lot she purchased in Quezon City. The rest of it will go to her existing business, the income of which is used to support whoever among her children will need financial aid.

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Bush advisers favor moratorium on clone research

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush's bioethics advisers rejected a permanent ban on cloning for biomedical research Thursday, taking a middle ground in the debate over the promise of science versus the perils of research using human embryos.

The President's Council on Bioethics was itself divided on what course Congress should take, but neither of two recommendations put forward supports the permanent ban favored by Bush and approved by the House of Representatives last year.

The White House said the report would not change Bush's view on cloning for research.

"His position is based on principle," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. "Any attempt to clone a human being is morally wrong."

The idea, not yet tried in humans, is to create a cloned embryo and then extract its stem cells, which may be developed into replacement tissue and organs for patients sick with a host of incurable diseases. A cloned embryo might overcome tissue rejection problems, researchers hope.

Opponents say it's wrong to create a human embryo—a new life—and then destroy it; supporters say it's more important to save existing lives through medical advances.

A slim majority—10 of 18 members—favored a four-year moratorium on research cloning to allow for further public debate. Seven members said scientists should be allowed to move ahead under strict regulations. One member who failed to attend most meetings took no position.

"The council, reflecting the differences of opinion in American society, is divided regarding the ethics of research involving cloned embryos," said the report by Bush's hand-picked panel of advisers. ***AP***

WORLDBRIEFS

US anti-terror funds

WASHINGTON—Top US lawmakers said on Thursday they had agreed on the main points of a much-delayed $30 billion emergency counter-terrorism spending package despite White House threats to veto it as too expensive. House of Representatives and Senate negotiators will now meet on Friday to wrap up the fiscal year 2002 supplemental spending bill, with a view to sending it to President George W. Bush early next week, they said. "We hope that we're going to be ready to sign, seal and deliver," said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd, a West Virginia Democrat. The White House—which is keen to keep a tight rein on government spending in the face of mounting US budget woes—has repeatedly urged lawmakers to hold the bill's cost to around the $27 billion it initially requested in March. But it has also issued dire warnings that the Pentagon, as well as agencies overseeing US airport security, could run out of money by next week if the measure is not finalized—possibly making it harder to justify a presidential veto. ***Reuters***

Huge anti-Chavez rally

CARACAS, Venezuela—Tens of thousands of anti-government protesters jammed Caracas on Thursday, blocking a major highway and demanding that President Hugo Chavez resign three months after the fiery left-wing leader survived a short-lived coup. Opposition leaders blame the president's self-proclaimed "revolution" and left-leaning policies for edging Venezuela into recession and stirring class hatred in the oil-rich South American nation. Thursday's opposition march, one of several since the April 11-14 coup, underscored the bitter divisions between foes and supporters of Chavez that have kept the world's fifth largest oil exporter on tenterhooks for months. ***Reuters***

Peru cabinet crumbles

LIMA, Peru—Peru's economy and prime ministers—both darlings of Wall Street—said on Thursday they were leaving the unpopular year-old government of President Alejandro Toledo in a sweeping reshuffle designed to inject new life into the stuttering administration. Toledo, whose popularity rating is down to less than 16 percent, is struggling with a crisis of credibility after failing to deliver on promises of more jobs and wealth in this Andean nation, where millions live on just over than $1 a day. Toledo was expected to unveil his new team on Friday, ahead of his first anniversary in office on July 28, in a bid to give his fractious Peru Posible party more clout and build bridges with the opposition. ***Reuters***

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VILLAGE OFFICIALS' WRATH

Comelec receives recall vs Cebu mayor

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Village officials submitted on Thursday their recall resolution against Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña before the Commission on Elections office here.

Among the documents submitted to the Comelec is a resolution passed during the Preparatory Recall Assembly (PRA), which cites loss of confidence as basis for the recall move.

But Cebu City North District Election Officer Edwin Labata said yesterday that he could not act on the petition because the PRA turned over just a photocopy of the resolution.

Based on Comelec guidelines, Labata said the original copy of the resolution should be submitted to their office.

On July 6, 399 of the 712 members of the Association of Barangay Councils, voted in favor of the recall move during the PRA held at the Capitol Social Hall.

Among the issues raised against the mayor were his alleged continuing act of undermining the barangay captains and subjecting them to political harassment and the mayor's alleged refusal to deliver basic services in barangays where the leaders are identified with his arch rival, former Mayor Alvin Garcia.

The Cebu City PRA is composed of 80 barangay captains, 554 barangay councilors and 78 SK chairpersons. The holding of the PRA was pursuant to Resolution No. 115 earlier passed by the ABC Board of Directors for the purpose of initiating the recall process.

PRA chair and Association of Barangay Council (ABC) President Jose Navarro submitted the recall resolution to the Comelec on Thursday afternoon.

Aside from the resolution, the documents submitted to the Comelec included notices sent to the different barangay officials that they would convene the PRA; the proof of service of the notices; the minutes and attendance of the PRA last July 6.

The PRA failed to submit the certification of the Department of Interior and Local Government office on the date of Osmeña's assumption to office.

Mansueto Avila, Kamagayan barangay captain and PRA secretary, said he did not know that such a certification was required. But, he added, they could easily get it from the DILG.

Labata, however, said he could not act on the resolution unless the PRA members submitted the original copy of their resolution.

The certification, he added, could be submitted later to their office.

Avila said they would get a clear guideline from the main Comelec office in Manila to determine if there was a need to submit the original copy of the resolution to the Comelec Cebu City office.

What the PRA planned, he added, was to submit the original copy directly to the Comelec *en banc*.

But Labata said it would be the Comelec regional office that would send the recall resolution to the Comelec en banc.

After his evaluation, Labata said he would transmit the resolution to the Comélec provincial office for review. If everything was in order, the document would be forwarded to the Comelec regional office before it reaches the Comelec *en banc*.

Osmeña, for his part, said he was confident that the barangay officials, who were seeking his ouster, would not succeed.

Osmeña cited several procedural lapses in the conduct of the PRA last July 6. Among these was the lack of authority of Navarro to preside over the PRA because he was not elected as the assembly's chairperson.

The mayor also claimed that the PRA failed to send proper notices to all barangay officials.

40,000 rally in Bacolod for scrapping of PPA

BACOLOD CITY—About 40,000 Negrenses gathered at the Bacolod Public Plaza yesterday afternoon to demand the abolition of the Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) and the Electric Power Industry Restructuring Act (Epira).

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra said he hoped the number of participants in the rally would touch the conscience of President Macapagal-Arroyo and all public officials, especially in Negros Occidental.

Among those who participated in the rally were Bacolod Mayor Luzviminda Valdez, Felomino Ang of the Aglipayan Church and Mike Enabe of the Protestant Church.

It took more than an hour for the protesters to march from the southern and northern parts of Bacolod to the public plaza amid the beat of drums.

The bulk of the crowd came from parishes in various parts of Negros Occidental and students, mostly from Catholic schools.

Fr. Greg Patino, Negros Consumers Watch chair, said that if President Macapagal-Arroyo does not heed the call of the people, the numbers in future rallies will increase and maybe next time the call will be "oust Gloria."

"If Gloria continues to stonewall by only granting partial reductions to the PPA, the people will see through the deception," said Nathaniel Santiago, Bayan secretary general.

He said the people are being charged for onerous contracts entered into by the government with Independent Power Producers.

"The PPA is being charged because of contracts with thieves, and the president's merely reducing and not abolishing it is like robbery by installment," he said.

But the protesters said the Epira should also be scrapped because it institutionalized the PPA.

The PPA is an automatic cost recovery mechanism set up by the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and distribution utilities to cover fluctuations in fuel prices, power costs, and foreign exchange rate.

"If Arroyo does not act on the call of the people, she could be the one removed from her post," said Santiago.

But Navarra said he could not categorically say that the people's anger over the PPA and the Epira could lead to the ouster of the President.

He, however, said the protest might escalate in other areas and this could be a tool to influence the President to give in to their demands. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be cloudy with rains and isolated thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	Hi 29°	Lo 24°
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	Hi 19°	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Laoag	Monsoon Rains	Hi 28°	Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	Hi 27°	Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	Hi 26°	Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 23°
Calapan	Monsoon Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Monsoon Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33°	Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/12/02

Abu victims' bodies found

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The bodies of the three fishermen who went missing on Tuesday while fishing off Lampinigan Island in Isabela City were recovered on Thursday, the military said yesterday.

Col. Alexander Aleo, commanding officer of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade in Basilan, said two residents of Lampinigan recovered the victims.

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Grand Draw Winners

GMA	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
1st Prize: House & Lot **Alexander Silverio** Quiapo, Manila	**1st Prize:** House & Lot **Rogelio Flavier** Canlubang, Laguna	**1st Prize:** House & Lot **Jay Linganay** Cebu City	**1st Prize:** House & Lot **Ronie Cabardo** Clarin, Misamis Occidental **Delia Pagod** Koronadal, South Cotabato
2nd Prize: 2002 Mitsubishi Adventure GLX-GAS **Alma Lagmay** Caloocan City	**2nd Prize:** 2002 Mitsubishi Adventure GLX-GAS **Janice Pedernal** Lucena City	**2nd Prize:** 2002 Mitsubishi Adventure GLX-GAS **Cristina Bravo** Bacolod City	**2nd Prize:** 2002 Mitsubishi Adventure GLX-GAS **Jeanly Villanueva** General Santos City **Filipina Sasuman** Digos, Davao del Sur
3rd Prize: Home Showcase **Nonet Diño** Makati City	**3rd Prize:** Home Showcase **Josephine Pamintuan** Porac, Pampanga	**3rd Prize:** Home Showcase **Leo Abay** MacArthur, Leyte	**3rd Prize:** Home Showcase **Paulita Balatero** Cagayan de Oro City

Consolation Prize: Living Room Showcase

GMA	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Rolando Advincula Marikina City	Charly Diente Cavite City	Jennifer Ferrer Mambusao, Capiz	Lolita Balbutin Ozamis City
Jerrilyn Homigop Taguig, Manila	Rex Paitan Calamba, Laguna	Antonia Obejera Cangara, Leyte	Emmanuel Cañete General Santos City
Jonathan Colmo Pasig City	Susan Arciaga Puerto Princesa City	Jusita Bihag Bacolod City	Flaviana Cocminas Trento, Agusan del Sur
Cynthia Dypangco Caloocan City	Arnulfo Soriano Binalonan, Pangasinan	Merle Cristino Tacloban City	Juliet Cena Cagayan de Oro City
Teodulo Africa Quezon City	Clarita Rodriguez Iriga City	Melody Solitario Tacloban City	Melinda Palma Sulop, Davao del Sur
Memie Abao Quezon City	Jocelyn Birata Tabaco, Albay	Crisologo Salazar Palo, Leyte	Jenylin Magallanes Tagum City
Editha Mabini Caloocan City	Charo Dazal Daraga, Albay	Evelyn Naranja Bacolod City	Richel Alagon Cagayan de Oro City
Delsie Aus Quezon City	Judy Tenido Pagsanjan, Laguna	Violeta Porras Iloilo City	Fereth Padilla Pagadian City
Karen Lim Malabon, Manila	Lea Hernandez Lucena City	Norieta Cabiades Tangalan, Aklan	Alan Vocal Clarin, Misamis Occidental
Aniceto Nalundasan Quezon City	Danilo Muñoz Puerto Princesa City	Sherlina Balarote Mandaue City	Elizabeth Tuñares Don Carlos, Bukidnon

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INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◎ Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Jaro's mansions keep the past alive

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

TRAVEL companies praise Iloilo City for its "old world ambiance," inviting tourists to return in time when the second oldest city in the country was a bustling port and an economic nerve center in the Visayas.

The city may no longer be the "Queen City of the South" but the grand years of yore are still visible in the antiquated houses, time-eaten churches and turn-of-the-century buildings that dot it.

Tour guides point to Jaro District when asked what the city was like in the late 1700s and 1800s.

In Jaro one finds remnants of the country's first "Millionaire's Row"—mansions of sugar barons ringing the plaza, standing like protective sentinels beside the Jaro Cathedral, the Archbishop's Palace and the venerable St. Vincent Ferrer Seminary where propagandist-hero Graciano Lopez Jaena went to school.

Tourists cannot enter the houses, however, unlike the museum city of Silay in Negros Occidental.

If caretakers or owners do tell stories about their mansions, they often keep their identities secret.

Some mansions are presentable because descendants of the sugar barons still live there. Caretakers lament the difficulty in maintaining the houses because it is not easy to find replacements for a wooden beam, part of a narra floor or a candelabra piece.

Ledesma mansion

A sense of the old world still pervades in the Ledesma mansion at the corner of Jaro's Seminario Street.

It is in the gleaming *balayong* (a hardwood species) floors, the chandeliers hanging from high ceilings and the inlaid floor tiles whose colors are almost as bright as the day they were installed.

In the heyday of Don Joaquin Ledesma, Spanish priests frequented the house: They drank, sang, and told stories. There were so many of them that the house turned white, laughs the 72-year-old caretaker who requests anonymity. Ledesma gave generously to the Roman Catholic Church, Carmelite nuns and the orphanage Asilo de Molo.

The two-story house was never repainted since 1925 when it was first designed and built by architect Juan Cacho. Although the Americans used it as a hospital, it survived the war unscathed.

Several years ago, narrates the caretaker, tourism officials even looked over the house and declared it one of the "scenic spots" of Jaro.

A botched attempt at finding treasure underneath the entrance hall of the mansion in 1999 almost crippled one of its columns as the digging weakened its foundation.

Lizares mansion

Probably the most elegant and opulent of all the old houses in Iloilo City is the mansion of Don Emiliano Lizares in Tabuc Suba, Jaro. It is now home to the Angelicum School run by the Dominican Order.

It is a fusion of American and Spanish architecture that captures another era of mystery and refinement.

According to 88-year-old caretaker Teodoro "Doroy" Tinolan, the mansion was built in 1937 by Don Emiliano Lizares, a man he described as a sugar haciendero from Talisay, Negros Occidental.

Tinolan's services were cut short when war broke out and Don Emiliano had to evacuate his family to the nearby town of Pototan where they stayed for some time.

The stately Lizares mansion was converted into a headquarter of the Japanese Army. Stories have it that the Japanese killed some Ilonggos and dumped their bodies in an underground basement "as tall as the mansion."

Nobody would dare peek into the basement and Angelicum students would shriek every time they passed by it. Tinolan said the war so broke the spirit of Don Emiliano that he died of grief in 1950.

His widow left for Manila and the house was leased to become a casino that the city government closed because it corrupted conservative Ilonggos.

In the next ten years, the mansion fell into disrepair. Tinolan and his family lived at the back near a swimming pool and kept the mansion from looking "totally haunted."

In 1962, Lizares' widow sold it to the Dominicans for P150,000 and it slowly regained its glory. The dark and narrow corridors were swept and proper lighting was installed. Grass and fruit trees were trimmed.

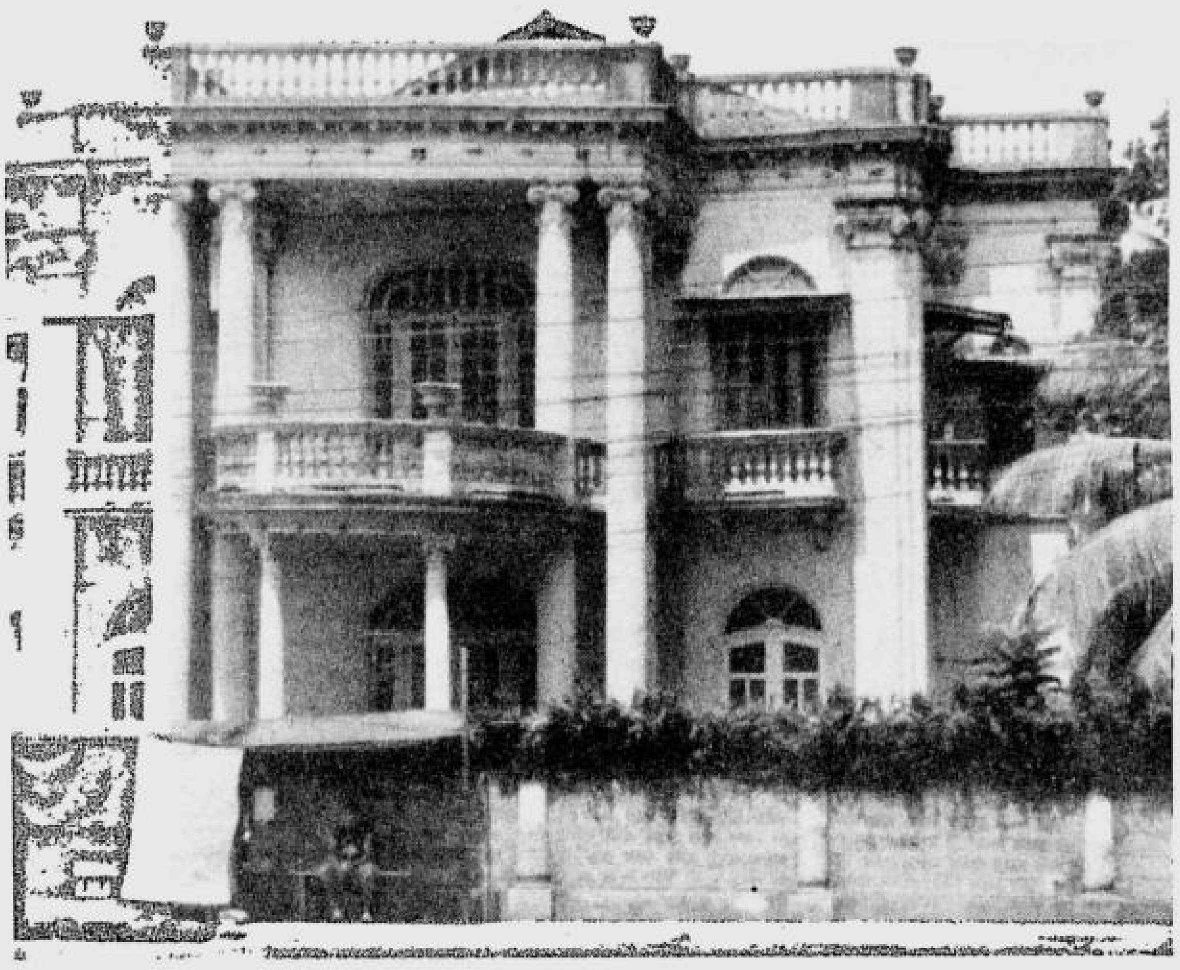
The Lizares mansion is now commonly known as "Angelicum."

It comes alive during Christmas when it is covered with multi-colored lights.

The Montinola "Blue House"

The Montinola house in front of where Graciano Lopez Jaena's house once stood on Graciano Lopez Jaena St. wasn't always blue. After it was built in the early 1900s (by a rich man only known as Emong Montinola), it was dull gray.

It got a taste of paint only after it was sold by a certain Jomena (presumably the second owner) to the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches 34 years ago. People began to describe it as "like cake."


THE LEDESMA mansion.
ARNOLD ALMACEN

The house withstood bombing during the war because its walls were solid cement, said Jacinto "Jun" Favellore Jr., the Romblon-born caretaker of the Montinola house.

The three-story house has six rooms on the first floor and eight on the second floor. A ballroom took up the whole third floor. It reportedly has a basement as tall as the house itself.

The basement was permanently closed by the present owners, partly because it is said to hold the remains of Japanese soldiers killed by the Americans.

Favellore tells of ghost stories, himself having encountered a white lady and a *kapre* he claimed to be eight feet tall, dark and with a beard.

He insists that he could hear typewriters clacking, doors opening and closing and electric fans whirring even when there is no one around.

Now, the Montinola house is just an office.

Keeping back the hands of time

Some mansions went the way of ball wreckers and bulldozers. Where they once stood are commercial buildings or depa rtment stores. Others became ugly warehouses or parking spaces.

Tourism Director Edwin Trompeta said for a house to be declared a landmark, it must have architectural, historical or social basis.

The main problem, it turns out, is locating the owners since most have gone abroad.

Those attempting to preserve the halcyon days of Jaro through its mansions face the same problems as those trying to preserve turn-of-the-century buildings in downtown Iloilo City—the owners are not around or are simply indifferent.

As it is, Jaro's grand mansions will remain mute testimony to the passage of time. Who knows what historical secrets and other stories the walls of these houses keep?

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

SANTO TOMAS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Lately, it has been portrayed that the University of Santo Tomas (UST) does not own the Santo Tomas University Hospital (STUH) and as such, the tax-exempt status of UST should not be extended to STUH whose assets and revenues are allegedly not actually and directly used for educational purposes. This is not true. The tax-exempt status of STUH remains unimpeachable.

STUH has been and continues to be considered as owned and operated by UST ever since it came into being. STUH incorporators are the same Dominican Fathers running the affairs of UST at the time the Articles of Incorporation was issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The same set up persists up to now where UST Administrators sit in the Governing Board of STUH which is the highest policy-making body of the Hospital.

In fact, the primary purpose, as indicated in the Articles of Incorporation and upon which the bedrock of STUH's foundation was built, is to provide *"educational and clinical training to students and at which, wherever required and guided by the Catholic doctrine of charity, medical and surgical or other professional services shall be rendered free of charge to deserving poor persons xxx"*

No less than the Bureau of Internal Revenue in its Ruling dated January 31, 1990, held that : *"xxx the Santo Tomas University Hospital being a non-stock, non-profit educational institution which appears to be owned by the University of Santo Tomas, being a part thereof, and an indispensable requirement in the operation and maintenance of its medical school/college/institute, among others, is exempt from taxes and duties on all its revenues and assets used actually, directly and exclusively for educational purposes as of February 2, 1987, which necessarily includes exemption from the 35% tax on its revenues from hospital operations and customs duties and valued added tax on its importation of hospital materials and equipment to be actually, directly and exclusively used for educational purposes."* This ruling was further confirmed by the Department of Finance in its letter dated September 12, 2001, to UST holding that under Department of Finance Order No. 137-87, *"importations of non-stock, non-profit educational institutions which shall be used actually, directly and exclusively for educational purposes shall be tax and duty free upon its entry."*

It is based from the foregoing postulates, and not on presumptions, that the Honorable Secretary of the Department of Education upheld the tax-exempt status of STUH.

Reverend Father Juan V. Ponce, OP
Chairman, Governing Board
STUH HOSPITAL

A taste of his own medicine

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

AMID an upsurge of robbery cases in Cebu City and under heavy pressure from City Hall to produce dramatic results, a worried Regional Police Director Avelino Razon Jr. recently convened a command conference with his men.

At random, Razon quizzed his officers on what they had done to stop robbery gangs in their areas. One precinct chief, perhaps because of a speech problem more than anything else, took too long to respond and was promptly given the boot.

Not a whimper was heard from the poor fellow who, colleagues later swore, was really a goof performer. He realized that in the police business, such perfunctory decision was allowed.

Now, Razon has found himself at the other end of the pecking order. Without the benefit of a hearing, he was relieved "for failing to stop the spread of illegal gambling in Central Visayas."

No hearing was needed, explained National Police Commission (Napolcom) head and Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina, because the relief was a "command prerogative and not a disciplinary action." Police chief Leandro Mendoza, Razon's superior, was among those who signed the shocking order.

"*Napakasakit* (It's so painful)," was all a stunned Razon could mutter after gathering himself.

Indeed. Not too long ago, things were looking up for him. He had just collected another star, making him at 51 the youngest two-star police general and a logical material for the top police post. Now, even if he survives this episode the future isn't so rosy.

Now, Razon has found himself at the other end of the pecking order.

While an officer's relief is ordinary, it isn't so in this case. Razon and six other top police officials were not only relieved, they were relieved because of illegal gambling. While the Napolcom later said it had no evidence that the officials were on the take, in the minds of many people, such a verdict had long been sealed.

The relief order has remained, and so has its stigma.

The officers may seek redemption and fight back in whatever way, if not against Lina himself then against a government that a few of them helped install, and yet permitted their fall from grace.

But this is one battle in which the Arroyo administration will find public support firmly on its side. For the first time, Filipinos perceive an earnest campaign to topple the illegal gambling superstructure that was first exposed during the Estrada impeachment trial.

That the campaign was launched at the expense of police officers identified with the administration gives it a veneer of legitimacy and sincerity. It also somehow makes this government—which has filled every vacancy in the bureaucracy with police and military figures as a safety measure against power grabbers—appear less of a wimp.

* * *

MASIAO TRIVIA.

- There's no jueteng in Central Visayas, only masiao, a jai alai spin-off, and video carera, which simulates a horse race.
- The latest raid conducted by the Task Force Jericho, the DILG task force against illegal gambling, last July 2 led to the arrest of an 85-year-old grandmother in Malabuyoc town, Cebu.
- The most prominent person linked to illegal gambling was former Cebu vice governor and radioman Fernando Celeste who boosted his radio ratings in June 2000 with a masiao-like raffle promo on station dyHP. Celeste soon developed a reputation for being a hot source of masiao tips. His ratings soared, but not his political fortunes. He was fined by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), charged before the Ombudsman and lost in his gubernatorial bid the following year.
- A local radio station, dyRB (Radyo Pilipino Inc.) was fined P3,000 and reprimanded by the KBP last June for airing "jai alai games" in violation of the Radio Code. Another station, radio dyDD or Bantay Radyo was investigated but cleared. The manager of this station also happens to be the "standards authority" of the KBP chapter in Cebu.
- A printing press, raided at least three times by police, has earned the tag "official masiao printer." The last raid on Roedil's Enterprises and Printing Press in downtown Cebu last May 9 resulted in the arrest of its owner who was caught in the act of printing jai alai and masiao tip sheets. The lawmen wanted to seize the printing press but found it too huge. They left it, saying their search warrant didn't allow them to destroy the door to take out the machine.

'Pest control experts' . . .

From page A1

Address (Sona) to the joint session of Congress on July 22.

Bayan and other allied organizations, which mobilized their forces at Edsa to oust President Joseph Estr a, will stage a protest action inv lvi. 50,000 members outside the Batasan Pambansa.

"Fumigators and pest control experts" will lead the protest rally, according to Bayan organizers. The highlight of the demonstration will be the symbolic spraying of pesticides on "termites" representing Ms Macapagal, Uncle Sam, and other personalities in government and the military.

"They not only buzz around a public demanding for reforms. What irks us is that they sting us repeatedly these pests like the corrupt military, Big Business, Uncle Sam, opportunist social-democrats like Code-NGO, the recycled henchmen of Estrada and Arroyo herself," Casiño said.

"Queen of termites," a militant labor leader called Ms Macapagal.

Casiño said, "Since Day One, various types of opportunist pests have come out of the woodwork."

Rallies in other cities

Bayan said an estimated 200,000 ralliers will take part in simultaneous demonstrations in major urban centers like Baguio, Naga, Legazpi, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Cebu, Tagbilaran, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos and Davao.

Casiño said that the Sona rallies will take on "three major issues of national concern." These are the escalating cost of living and rising prices of goods, oil, water and electricity rates; the worsening political crisis and the specter of political repression; the extension and expansion of US military presence and the restoration of US military bases through the Mutual Logistics and Support Agreement.

Anc r militant group, the Kilusang Mayo [illegible] no (KMU), expressed anger with [illegible] President's alleged display of [illegible] ce against critics of her admin- [illegible]

[illegible] lio interview yesterday morning [illegible] Macapagal said she no longer [illegible] "debt of gratitude" to Edsa participants who made it possible for her to become President.

"The masses are going through so much misery, we have to kick Gloria out of Malacañang," said Joel Maglunsod, KMU secretary for federation affairs.

The labor leader said it was not surprising that even Ms Macapagal closest associates within civil society groups are now severing ties with her.

Maglunsod said that it is very wrong for Ms Macapagal to regard her critics as termites.

"Sa totoo lang sya ang reyna ng mga anay, dahil sinisira nya lalo ang ekonomya ng bansa," Maglunsod said. ("In fact, she's the queen of termites. She's destroying the country's economy.")

Typhoon Gloria

Another militant group, Sanlakas, which will hold separate protest actions on July 22, said the President's sinking popularity rating coupled with her current open dispute with her former allies in civil society are the bigger "storms" that she needs to weather to brace from now up to 2004.

"Not termites but a kind of a big storm is likely to hit Gloria from the inside and its early signs are coming out right now with the withdrawal of support of her former allies," said Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza.

"Typhoon 'Gloria' has hit the country hard from the outside, but it seems like a bigger typhoon is going to hit back at Gloria from the inside," Fortaleza said.

Fortaleza said the administration is "sailing on a stormy sea." He explained that with the withdrawal of two of her ardent supporters in Edsa II, referring to Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa) and Bayan, the President's support base from the civil society groups has been substantially reduced to a few NGOs within the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil II).

Only Kompil

Fortaleza said Kompil alone has stood by the President mainly because it benefited from the controversial Peace Bonds they acquired through the CODE-NGO.

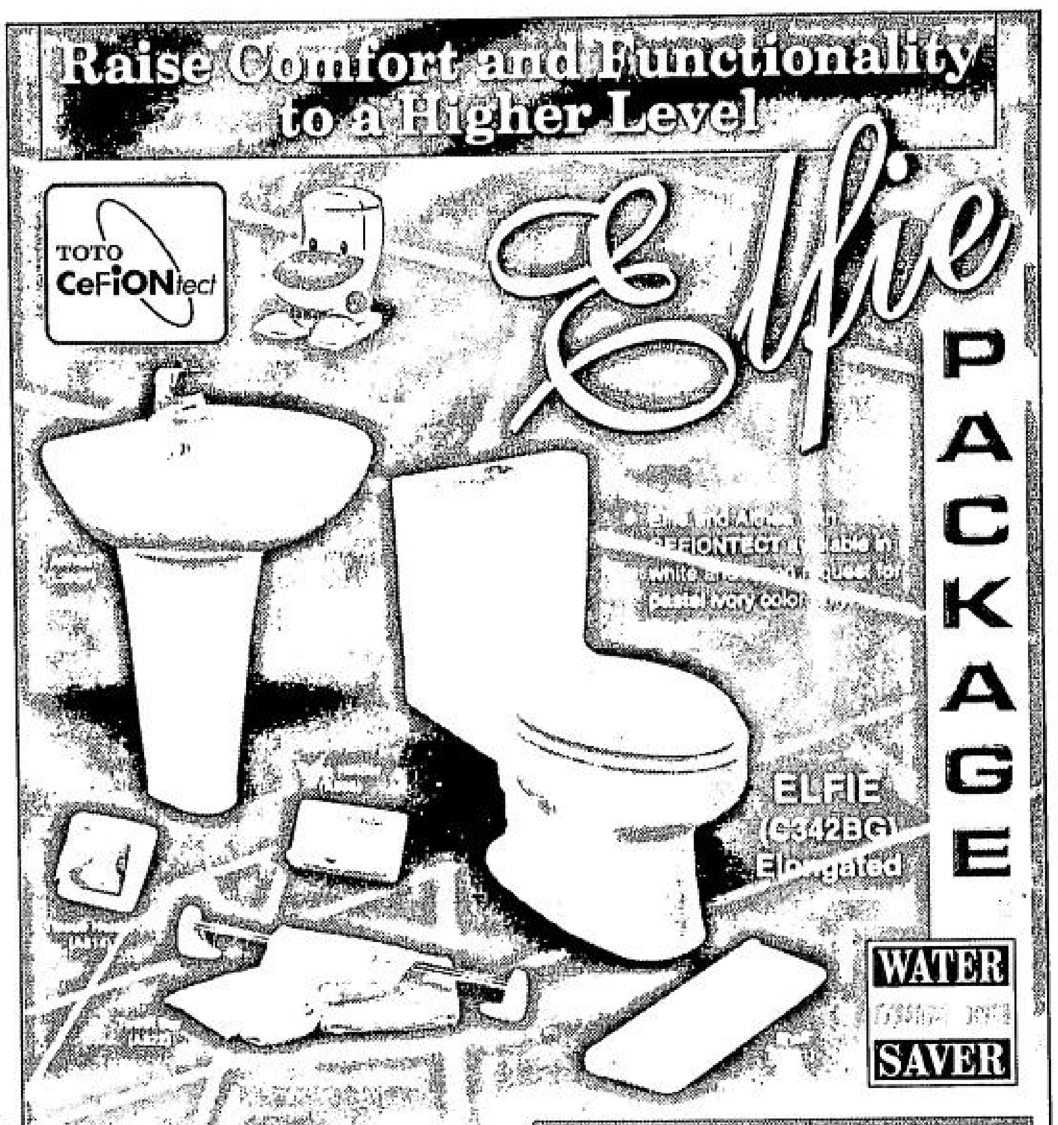
But Fortaleza said KOMPIL II's capabilities have been "reduced to a dud" as most of its leaders have been appointed to government positions, the most prominent being Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman.

"It now appears that GMA is left alone in the boat," he added. "Now, we are not surprised that she is doing all that she can in order to save her government, even if it means resorting to *'pamamangka sa mahigit sa dalawang ilog.'"*

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) assailed Malacañang's statement that "other 'termites' are free to leave the government."

Malacañang had said that officials who cannot toe the line on government policies are free to follow Pastor "Boy" Saycon of Copa.

KMP chair Rafael Mariano said the President was "obviously forcing government officials critical of its anti-people policies to quit in order to accelerate the political reincarnation of Marcos and Estrada allies."



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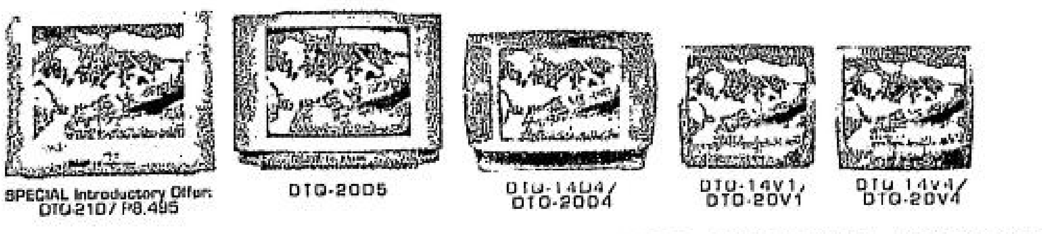

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34 killed in run-up to barangay, SK polls

From page A1

groups to flex muscle in various areas to influence the outcome of the elections.

The casualty figures were the result of 45 shooting, stabbing, mauling and abduction incidents tallied in the past days nationwide.

"These are incidents not necessarily election-related. They are in our (records) because most of these incidents involve candidates," Camiling said.

The Bicol region had the highest figure of nine violent incidents, of which seven were fatal shooting incidents. Eastern Visayas had seven shooting incidents that claimed the lives of six persons.

Earlier, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Bicol were tagged as "areas of concern" because of their history of violent elections. But Camiling said the military was also monitoring Isabela, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, and the Lanao and Mindoro provinces.

He said the communist rebels had started to mobilize their forces although the military had not noted any particular candidate of the New People's Army, just NPA-supported ones.

"We are watching less than 6 percent of the barangays," he said of the supposed communist mobilization. "In fact, we have captured documents about their intention to take advantage of the elections."

Camiling warned that victory for the communist-supported candidates meant that they could influence future provincial elections.

Political rivals

In Peñarrubia, Abra, police arrested on Tuesday a candidate for barangay captain in connection with the shooting of his political rival last week.

Chief Supt. George Aliño, Cordillera police director, said candidate Marino Blanca had identified Jessie Bagay and Sandy Gabat as among the men who fired at him and his companion at 10 p.m. on July 5, the first day of the campaign period.

Blanca and Bartolome Balladeng were treated for bullet wounds at the Abra Provincial Hospital. Bagay and Gabat are now detained at the Abra jail.

The military has identified 14 towns and 62 villages in four provinces in the Cordillera as election hot spots.

In a report to the regional peace and order council (RPOC) on Friday, military officials tagged Mt. Province, Benguet, Abra and Kalinga as probable areas of concern.

In Pangasinan, police have identified a number of barangays in Laoac, Basista, Lingayen, Asingan and Villasis towns and Urdaneta City as potential hot spots.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pangasinan police director, said these barangays were being closely watched because of the involvement of feuding political families in the elections.

Mendoza said police had raided the houses of candidates and their leaders suspected of hiding guns to be used during the elections.

"We have warned the candidates and their supporters that we mean business in the implementation of the ban on firearms," he said.

In Urdaneta City, Supt. Raul Petrasanta, city police chief, asked the Commission on Elections to declare four barangays—Catablan, Anonas, Dilan-Paurido and Poblacion—as areas of concern.

Mendoza also warned against the communists' supposed "double-edged policy" of fielding their own candidates and launching propaganda against those not affiliated with them.

He said the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA provincial committee in Pangasinan and the party list group Bayan Muna had teamed up to support certain candidates to facilitate their entry into the barangays and earn support for their armed political struggle.

Flooding

In Dagupan City, officials said the elections in most of the villages could be postponed because of the flooding of 18 schools there.

In Isabela, Vice Gov. Santiago Respicio urged the RPOC there to ask the Comelec to defer the elections and declare special polls at Barangay Villa Miguel in Quirino town.

Respicio made the call after the abduction of former Villa Miguel barangay chair Orlando Cerdinola by six suspected NPA rebels.

But Nueva Vizcaya Gov. and RPOC chair Rodolfo Agbayani said the council would form a law enforcement team to stop the rebels from influencing the elections.

The police and military in Central Luzon earlier reported that the NPA exerted influence in 24 villages and infiltrated 318 villages. There are 3,190 villages in the region.

Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, 5th Infantry Division commander, said Cerdinola's abduction was an effort of the rebels to ensure a seat for their chosen candidate.

In Bulacan, Comelec officials expressed fears that the elections would not push through in the coastal town of Obando because of the floods.

Most of the barangays in Obando are submerged in 4 feet of water.

In other areas in Central Luzon, floods and insurgency-related activities also threatened to postpone the elections, according to Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, regional police director.

He said the list of such areas was still being finalized in consultation with the governors.

In Camarines Sur, police organized quick reaction units in coordination with the Comelec as another shooting incident, this time in Bula town, was reported yesterday.

Senior Supt. Roberto Rongavilla, police provincial director, said the number of hot spots there had reached 70.

Rongavilla said Bula police had yet to determine the motive behind the shooting in Barangay La Purisima of two motorcycle riders, identified as Ramon Guaves and Eddie Soliman, at about 11 p.m., Wednesday.

He said the barangay had been put on the watch list.

At Camp Nakar in Lucena City, Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the AFP Southern Luzon Command, told the INQUIRER that "except for some isolated hot spots where NPA rebels had been frequently sighted, we can safely predict that the Monday polls will be generally peaceful in Bicol and Southern Tagalog."

But he said they were not letting their guard down and were "ready for any criminal and terrorist groups."

Broso said the military had preempted at least three supposed rebel plots by posting additional troops in target areas.

He said they gathered the information from "classified documents recovered from the rebels."

Broso claimed that NPA units in Albay province had imposed a "permit-to-campaign" fee of P1,500 for every candidate for barangay chair, and P500 for barrio council member.

He said the rebels in certain barangays in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro, were also collecting P2,000 as campaign fee from every candidate for barangay chair.

In an earlier interview, Solcom chief Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko said the military could not stop the NPA from supporting any candidate.

"The elections are a political exercise in which the military is not supposed to meddle, except in the preservation of peace and order," Kyamko pointed out.

Espinosa scion

Two candidates, one a scion of the influential Espinosa clan, were shot dead in separate incidents in Iloilo and Negros Oriental.

Rodney Espinosa, 26, who was running for councilor in Barangay Monica, Iloilo City, had five gunshot wounds in the body when he expired at the Iloilo St. Paul's Hospital at around 7:45 p.m. Thursday, nearly an hour after he was shot by at least two assailants.

In Tayasan, Negros Oriental, a reelectionist barangay councilor was gunned down in front of his horrified family Monday morning.

Ebbie Bacang, 42, was felled by Garand bullets fired by masked assailants in fatigue uniforms around 8 a.m. at his home in Sitio Bulabog, Barangay Tanglad.

Police reports said Espinosa was riding a motorcycle when he was waylaid at the Waterfront area in Barangay Zamora-Melliza.

Senior Supt. Rolando Rabara, Iloilo City police director, said Espinosa might have fired his 9 mm Gluck pistol at his assailants, but that this had to be confirmed through a paraffin test.

Shells from a 9-mm handgun, an empty magazine and a hand-held radio were recovered from the crime scene.

One of two suspects, Joemarie Refujio, surrendered to the Iloilo City Mobile Group yesterday morning to clear his name.

Rabara said Refujio denied involvement in the killing but that two witnesses refuted this.

The other suspect, one Bongbong Yturriaga, is at large but has sent surrender feelers, Rabara said in a phone interview.

He discounted politics as a motive of the killing, saying a "personal grudge" was more likely.

However, the motive in the killing of Bacang remains unknown, said PO3 Quirino Baga of the Negros Oriental Police Office, quoting a report from the Tayasan police station.

The gunmen supposedly approached Bacang and asked if there were any leftists in the area, and then shot him.

But Comelec officials did not discount politics as an angle in the killing.

Assassinations

In Butuan City, the military said the NPA was behind the assassinations of barangay politicians in Agusan del Norte.

Col. Nerio Valerio, commander of the Army's 402nd Infantry Brigade, said the NPA was trying to influence the outcome of the Monday polls by killing perceived anticommunists and sowing terror among voters.

"The (killings) are more of a political build-up to influence the elections and to sow terror," Valerio told reporters yesterday.

Chief Supt. Alberto Olario said three election-related incidents had been monitored in Agusan del Norte.

On July 5, three suspected communists shot and killed retired policeman Amado Palisan, 63, chair of Barangay Kahayagan in Carmen town. He was going home from a meeting near the main road when attacked.

On July 10, seven alleged NPA rebels killed retired Army 2nd Lt. Pio Rosado, who was a candidate for councilor in Barangay Sanghan, Buenavista town.

Witnesses said the gunmen read a list of Rosado's alleged crimes before he was shot.

On Thursday evening, reelectionist barangay captain Raul Carampatana of Barangay San Vicente narrowly escaped death after a lone gunman shot him with a .45 cal pistol.

The self-styled crime-buster and anti-communist suffered only minor bruises.

Olario said the NPA was also trying to sow terror by attacking the military.

He said the Northern Mindanao Regional Party Committee-CCP were backing at least five candidates in the region.

"We are watching them closely. They can be dangerous if they win," he said.

In Davao City, the NPA is supporting at least 20 candidates for barangay captain, according to the military. ***With reports from Jovelyn Reyes, Yolanda Fuertes and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Juan Escandor Jr. and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau; Franklin Caliguid, Anthony S. Allada, Dennis Jay C. Santos, Ryan D. Rosauro and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

GAIN ADVISORY
FROM
ABBOTT LABORATORIES

Recently in the media, comments regarding the safety of Abbott's Gain and Gain Plus have been aired or published. This statement is being issued by Abbott Laboratories to assure everyone that its products remain safe to use. However, this advisory has been released for clarification and to avoid speculation.

Following an inspection of the packaging facility in Denmark, a defective part was identified in one of the pouch packaging lines that caused small quantities of particles in some 200 gm. pouches of Gain Plus.

The problem was isolated to a single packaging line within the packaging facility and, in the Philippines, affects only a limited quantity of Gain Plus 200 gm. pouches. **The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration and Abbott Laboratories have concluded that the affected products pose no risk to human health.**

While the affected products remain safe for human consumption and pose no health risk, Abbott Laboratories voluntarily initiated the withdrawal of the products produced on the affected packaging line as a precautionary measure.

The company has been taking action to pull out the affected products from wholesalers, distributors and retailers. This is being done as a reflection of Abbott Laboratories' continuing commitment to providing its consumers the highest quality products.

For additional concerns or further clarification on the matter, Abbott has set up a hotline where consumers can call. The hotline number is at **6890-555** and will be open between the hours of 8 AM and 5 PM starting today, July 13th.

The company reiterates that only a small batch of 200gm. pouches of Gain Plus were affected. **All canned products of Gain and Gain Plus are not affected.**

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Tito bids . . .

From page A1

during simple rites at the DFA auditorium.

In a press conference afterward, Guingona said he would be attending the assembly called by civil society groups at the Edsa Shrine on Monday.

But he emphasized that his speech before the assembly will only delve on "civil liberties" and that he would not discuss anything that would involve President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It's not a Copa (Council for Philippine Affairs) gathering. It's a mass for civil liberties . . . I was invited to attend it, I accepted it because it's not about politics," Guingona said.

Both Guingona and Malacañang denied a newspaper report that he had cut a deal with Ms Macapagal in which he would be named "political czar" for Mindanao in exchange for his resignation.

"The Vice President resigned as secretary of foreign affairs in view of honest differences of opinion with the President," a Palace statement said. "There are no concessions or conditions attached to his resignation, or discussed in the course of events leading to it."

Own man

There have been speculations that with him out of the Cabinet, Guingona might become more outspoken against Ms Macapagal's positions and might ally himself with government critics. Yesterday, Guingona said he would be his own man.

"I'm not a tool of anyone," he said, adding that while he would take stances "on issues of national interest," he was not going to pick fights and would instead play a "constructive" role that would "not be meant to destroy."

"It would be meant to open eyes and ask for second thoughts for the good of the nation," he said.

He said he would be consistently on the watch on matters pertaining to the "economy, human rights, peace and order and national security."

Guingona acknowledged that his duty as vice president was "to lend a helping hand in the formulation of national issues."

"I hope I measure up to their expectations and I want to assure all that I will continue to serve, to help in any way I can as a humble public servant," Guingona said.

Lakas not in disarray

He dashed speculations that the rift between him and the President has caused a major debacle in the ruling Lakas-NUCD where he sits as president and Ms Macapagal as its chair.

"Lakas is firm. It's not in disarray," he said.

Guingona was given a standing ovation by DFA officials and personnel and supporters, some of whom openly wept as the Vice President delivered his farewell speech.

Guingona thanked administration Senators Joker Arroyo and Loren Legarda-Leviste, House Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzales and Representatives Juan Miguel Zubiri and Magtanggol Gunigundo for throwing their support behind him during his row with Malacañang over the premature announcement of his resignation.

Malacañang had set off confusion in late June when it released a letter from Ms Macapagal saying she had accepted Guingona's resignation as foreign secretary. Guingona denied he resigned, and acting presidential spokesperson Silvestre Afable later said he mistakenly issued the President's letter to reporters, claiming it was supposed to have been torn up. Afable said Guingona would stay on in his two posts, but Guingona clearly was crippled and said on July 2 that he would indeed step down.

A staunch nationalist, Guingona has expressed reservations about the US military exercise in Basilan on constitutional grounds. He helped draw up the exercise's terms of reference, aiming to prevent the possibility of US troops being involved in combat.

Ms Macapagal supports the exercise, which involves training Philippine troops to fight the Abu Sayyaf.

Opposition Sen. Blas Ople, said to be Malacañang's favorite to replace Guingona, has apparently warmed up to the idea of becoming the next DFA secretary.

A statement released by his office said nine overseas placement associations issued a manifesto of support, endorsing Ople's nomination to the DFA post.

They called him the "Father of Overseas Employment." ***With a report from AP***

Bishop offers to mediate 'civil' unrest

From page A1

place of worship, must be used for this purpose. If the facilities of the Edsa Shrine are to be used for something other than its intention, the written permission of the Archbishop is necessary," Villegas said.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin had banned the holding of political activities especially protest rallies at the historic shrine following its alleged "desecration" last year by the "Edsa Tres" forces allied with ousted President Joseph Estrada.

But Villegas did not say anything about plans by Copa to hear Mass at the shrine. At presstime, the INQUIRER failed to reach him to clarify this matter.

Also attending

The militant group Bayan, the Erap Resign Movement and the Citizens National Network Against Poverty and Corruption have confirmed attendance in the Mass, according to Saycon.

The Mass will be said by Villegas at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

Everyone is welcome, according to Saycon. Only Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who resigned as foreign secretary yesterday, ***(Story on Page A1)*** was formally invited. At his farewell press conference yesterday, Guingona confirmed his attendance at the Monday Mass.

"We will welcome him back into the arms of the multi-sectoral forces of Edsa," he said.

Saycon refused to comment on the Villegas' offer to broker a dialogue between Copa and Malacañang.

"It's best if he tells that to me when we meet. A lot of interpretations (on Copa's cause) have been coming out. Our only issue is that we should not appoint former Estrada officials to the Cabinet," he said.

He was referring to the reported appointment of Sen. Blas Ople to replace Guingona and the recruitment of brothers Ricardo and Ronaldo Puno, and Jaime Policarpio into Macapagal administration.

Saycon announced his resignation as member of the board of the directors of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. on Wednesday after the President described him as "a termite."

Officials of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) opted to keep mum over the President's feud with her former supporters in civil society.

"We would rather attend to the hungry poor," Manila Auxiliary Bishop Teodoro Buhain Jr., chair of the CBCP's Permanent Committee on Public Affairs, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

But Buhain admitted that people are feeling the weight of poverty and hopelessness. "Our people are affected too, until we see any improvement in the lot of the people, there will be dissatisfaction," he said.

Lakas belittles prayer vigil

Lakas congressmen yesterday belittled the prayer vigil by civil society groups believing that it would be an anti-Macapagal assembly.

Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said that any rally to be held on Monday would flop because the barangay and youth elections are being held on the same day. ***(Story on Page A1)***

"Who would you mobilize?" Gonzales said, as he noted that grassroots leaders would surely be busy with the polls.

The presence of Guingona in the Edsa Mass was interpreted by Gonzales to mean that the media would cover the event.

"It's an exercise of releasing hot air, nothing more, nothing less," Gonzales said.

"*Ang hirap sa* Copa, *sila palagi ang magaling* (The trouble with Copa is that they always think they know best)," he said. "Some of them are not even tested when it comes to running the affairs of government and those who were with government before did not even make any difference."

Equally testy about the Copa gathering was Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez who said that this proves that Copa has "always been for destabilization."

"It's the best proof that if Copa does not have its way with the President, they will try to hold her on a lease," Gonzalez said.

Only kibitzers at Edsa

Copa is holding the prayer rally to show that the group should be listened to by the President, he said.

He also assailed Copa for trying to take credit for the success of People Power II.

"They started as kibitzers . . . and they picked up the pieces after the impeachment trial," said Gonzalez, a former House prosecutor in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

He also sought to downplay the possible participation of Guingona in the prayer rally because he said that there was nothing wrong if the Vice President is invited to join and pray with them.

But he noted that if Guingona does attend the rally, it's a "small indication that he's still smarting from what had happened to him," in reference to Malacañang's unceremonious way of easing him out of the foreign affairs top post.

Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo, a member of Lakas-NUCD, also said there was nothing to be concerned about the possible participation of Guingona in the rally because "he can even represent the President there."

But Gunigundo said it can't be helped if some sectors are anxious about the rally.

Prayers welcome

He sees nothing wrong with Copa holding a prayer rally because "we welcome prayers."

"My suggestion to Copa is not to be a fault finder but a solution maker," he added.

Bayan Muna Satur Ocampo said Copa is holding the prayer rally to "remind the Macapagal administration about the objectives of People Power II."

"They want to reiterate the purposes of People Power II and remind the President that she has deviated from the objectives of Edsa II," Ocampo said in a separate phone interview.

Ocampo reminded that the two goals of Edsa II were for political change and justice in the plunder case against Estrada.

He also took exception to presidential adviser Dodie Limcaoco's statement that People Power II succeeded because of the multitude of unorganized masses who went to Edsa.

Ocampo, whose group was one of those who helped oust Estrada, said these masses wouldn't have come to Edsa unless they were mobilized by civil society groups.

On Guingona's possible participation in the rally, Ocampo said the Vice President was just being consistent in his position and standing by his principles.

The prayer rally on Monday, he said, was "a new turn in the popular challenge to the Macapagal administration."

If the rally is successful, he said it would be a sign to the Macapagal administration "to take heed of the protest action."

Golez: No cause for worry

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG does not see any national security implications in the planned assembly at the Edsa Shrine on Monday to be led by the Council for Philippine Affairs, according to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

"We are confident that the gathering will be peaceful and there is no cause for worry," Golez said.

Golez also assured that the military and police establishments are insulated from the supposed restlessness within the ranks of civil society groups.

"Everything is stable in all our national security systems," Golez said.

Golez said that he could not confirm Copa's claim that the government is planning a parallel rally on Monday led by the Nationalist Alliance for Democracy.

'I am the President of Edsa II and Edsa III'

From page A1

ciple of Christ immediately after the bloody siege of Malacañang by Estrada supporters on May 1, 2001.

She recalled that when she later ordered the release of the Estrada supporters who were arrested during the failed attack, it created a controversy of sorts.

"It so happened that I read in the Bible" Jesus' enlistment of Matthew, she said.

The President said she still found this relevant in the face of criticism from civil society groups that her administration was "sleeping with the enemy."

"That's what God made me read, that's what He wants to say," she said. "The controversy has yet to come out but I've already read that (in the Bible)."

Agitation

Some civil society groups, which contributed to the people's uprising in January 2001 that ousted Estrada and installed Ms Macapagal in Malacañang, are agitated over the supposed impending appointment of opposition Sen. Blas Ople as secretary of foreign affairs in place of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.

They are also up in arms over Malacañang's enlistment of the services of Estrada operators Ronaldo and Ricardo Puno and Jaime Policarpio.

On Wednesday, Pastor "Boy" Saycon, secretary general of one such group, the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa), said he would resign his board seat at the government-controlled Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. after the President directed a barbed remark at him.

Reacting to Saycon's criticism of her administration's policies, Ms Macapagal had said: "A strong republic cannot afford to have termites from within."

Yesterday, the President said that since she was put in power through People Power II, she had listened to the civil society groups that helped make the uprising possible.

"For one year I listened to all sides. I think now it's time to let my compass do. That's what a strong republic is," she said.

Singling out Copa, which she said had been criticizing her, Ms Macapagal said that while it was part of People Power II it had never been supportive of her.

"They didn't like Erap (Estrada), but they also didn't like me," she said.

Cornerstone

In a speech yesterday at the launching of the 4th Philippine Human Development Report in Malacañang, the President said a strong republic needed a "vibrant civil society" as its "cornerstone."

"But civil society, a warrior in toppling a dictatorship and a corrupt government, must now learn to forge its swords into hammers for building the republic," she said. "We must strive to finally dismantle a subculture of divisiveness and self-centeredness and transform our families, our communities and other civil society organizations into engines for national prosperity."

She also stressed that "new politics, the politics of institutionalized consultations with the people, requires a vibrant civil society."

In her talk Thursday with Net 25 officers and staff, Ms Macapagal said she could not afford to take a middle position on issues as a leader.

"Why be in the middle when you can't accomplish anything? That's why somebody is bound to be hurt when you explore," she said.

Charisma

The tough stance that the President has taken on is apparently boosting perceptions that she is high-handed and a leader without charisma.

But she is not concerned about whether she has charisma because, she said, "charisma is a subjective judgment."

"I've already won three elections," she told Net 25 when she was reminded that charisma was part of winning at the polls.

Ms Macapagal has an impressive record in elections, starting with her winning a seat in the 1992 senatorial contest even though she was a neophyte candidate.

She was reelected in 1995 with 16 million votes, the highest vote garnered by a national candidate in Philippine history.

She posted another record when she won the vice presidential contest in 1998, gaining the biggest electoral margin ever of 7 million votes over the votes for her closest rival.

"Of course, it's better if one has it, but charisma is a subjective judgment," the President said. "Why would I concern myself with subjective targets when objective targets are what are important?"

She also said a number of people viewed her as "*mataray*" but that she had learned to live with it because she was indeed snooty.

"Every year it has been my New Year's resolution not to be snooty," she said.

The President said she had no regrets over admitting that she had committed political mistakes "left and right."

"I believe in being transparent. It's very hard for me to tell a lie," she said.

And then she declared: "I'll never be a good poker player."

Kampi stands by GMA, says Tingting

KAMPI, the original party of President Macapagal-Arroyo, stands foursquare behind the President. This was announced by Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco, Kampi chair.

Ms Cojuangco further stated that what Kampi finds troubling is the fact that while all parties seem to agree that most of the problems ailing the country are rooted in economics, these same parties have chosen to ignore the gains made by the President's economic agenda and program. Instead, they have ascribed all her moves to playing politics.

"Our country cannot move forward unless the economy improves and who better to address our economic ills than an accomplished economist, Ms Cojuangco added. "Even now, the international financial communities have recognized the economic inroads gained by the Philippines. Kampi urges everyone not to get sidetracked by issues raised by the rhetoric of certain quarters.

Ms Cojuangco appeals to everyone to allow the President to push through with her economic agenda.

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GETTY IMAGES

A MOTHER'S joy was all over Gracia Burnham's face as she could hardly wait to hug her daughter Mindy during her homecoming.

Kansas residents to build new home for Gracia

From page A1

lowed the couple's ordeal in news reports.

Burnham and her husband, Martin, also a missionary, were kidnapped in Dos Palmas in Palawan and brought to Basilan where they were held hostage in the jungle for more than a year. Last month, she was rescued, but her husband Martin and another hostage, Filipino nurse Edibora Yap, were killed during a shoot-out between Philippine troops and the rebel kidnappers.

"She's overwhelmed by their kindness," said Teresa Burnham, Martin's sister-in-law. Gracia Burnham is in Florida this week with her children: Jeff, 15; Mindy, 12; and Zach, 11.

Since the kidnappings, the family has been living at Martin Burnham's parents' home in Rose Hill. Gracia Burnham has said she's reluctant to move the children and wants to keep them near their new friends. *AP*

Free at Last
Welcome

GETTY IMAGES

WARM welcome was accorded Gracia Burnham when she arrived at the Kansas City International Airport on June 10, 2002.

'Out-of-school' whiz kids get college degrees

From page A1

received math degrees from the University of Warwick in western England.

Iskander, who went to the university at the age of 12, emerged with top marks and a first-class degree, while Noraisha received a slightly lower grade.

Along with other siblings, the pair was taught at home by their father, Farooq, and mother, Halimaheon, who moved from Malaysia to the central English city of Coventry in the 1960s.

Before the graduation ceremony, Noraisha said there had been "healthy competition" between them at the university, but that they had also helped each other.

The pair said they had no regrets about not going to school.

"Conventional schooling makes no allowance for differences in ability. We would not have benefited from going to school," Noraisha said.

Their 45-year-old father said the children were given books, "but a lot of it was self-taught. We perhaps enabled them to engage in the process of learning, but the motivation and the application and the interest has been very much from themselves."

The siblings' elder sister, Sufiah, became the second-youngest student to win a place at Oxford University when she was accepted as a 13-year-old in 1997, following in the footsteps of Ruth Lawrence, who was just 12 when she enrolled at the university in 1982.

Another sister, Zuleihka, 8, is preparing to take her final secondary school exams.

No classes Tuesday for HS, elementary

From page A1

the extra day would give the youth a chance to go home to their provinces, if need be, and vote, and then return in time for classes.

"I encourage the youth, in particular all public and private high school students, to go out and vote and help monitor the elections in their areas," Roco said in a press statement.

He said "make-up classes" would be held during the year.

The DepEd said the suspension of classes on Tuesday would also allow the public school teachers, who are to again serve in the Monday elections, to rest and prepare for classes on Wednesday.

The public school classrooms to be used as polling precincts also need to be prepared for the students after Monday, the DepEd said.

The Office of the President earlier declared July 15 as a non-working and no-class holiday.

150-kph . . .

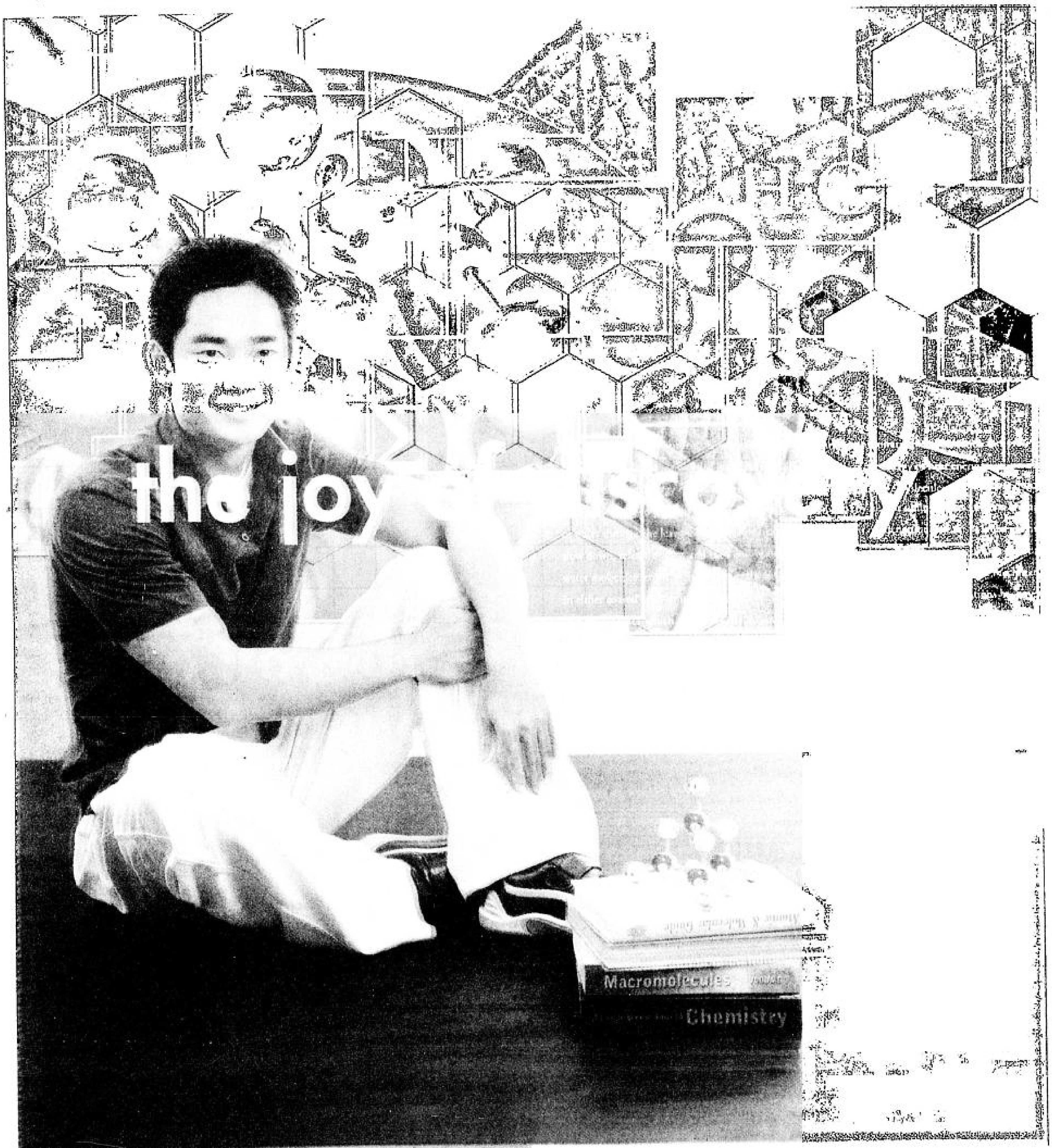
From page A1

1,520 km east of northern Luzon. It packs maximum winds of 150 kph at the center with gustiness of 180 kph.

The typhoon will be named "Inday" once it enters the country's area of responsibility, said Ric Fabregas, Pagasa weather forecaster.

He said the weather bureau could not yet say exactly what time the typhoon would affect the country. He said the rains last night were still due to the current southwest monsoon, not the incoming typhoon.

Typhoon "Halong" is coming from the area of Guam. *Gerald Lacuarta*



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BEST OF THE BEST

Nat'l taekwondo tilt unfolds Monday

AVENTAJADO

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HOPING to showcase the talents of the country's top taekwondojins as well as discovering new ones, the Samsung Best of the Best national championships will begin on Monday at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

Some 300 participants including members of the national pool and leading blackbelters from various Philippine Taekwondo Association clubs and chapters all over the country will vie for honors in the week-long tournament sponsored by Samsung and supported by Accel and 103.5 K Lite.

Competition will be conducted in all weight categories in the senior men's and women's divisions for jins 17 years old and above, junior men's and women's division (14-17 years old) and children's division (13 years and below).

The elimination and final matches in the senior division will be held on July 15 and 16. The elimination and final in the junior division will be July 17 and 18, while the boys' and girls' elimination and finals will be featured July 19, 20 and 21.

Organized by IMG and the PTA, the event will also have taekwondo clinics to be conducted by celebrity taekwondo master Monsour del Rosario on July 16 to 19. There will also be side events like taekwondo demonstration and taerobics exhibition on July 20. Taerobics is a new fitness regimen that combines taekwondo with aerobics.

In the seniors division, there will be competitions in finweight, flyweight, bantamweight, featherweight, lightweight, welterweight and middle/heavy, while classes in the junior division are fin, fly, bantam, feather, light, welter and middle—all for men and women.

Competition in the children's division will be categorized according to height and weight. Action starts at 1 p.m. on July 15, but the opening ceremony will be held at 5 p.m.

PTA, under the leadership of president Robert N. Aventajado and vice president Sung Chon Hong, is one of the country's consistent medal producers in international competitions like the Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games.

Go turns down Japan offer to host 2003 Asian meet

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ATHLETICS chief Go Teng Kok yesterday turned down a last-minute request by Japan to take over the hosting of the 2003 Asian track and field championships from the Philippines.

The plea was made through Asian Amateur Athletics Association vice president Sasaki of Japan and secretary general Maurice Nicholas of Singapore who yesterday called up Go to inform him that Japan is "ready to compromise."

But Go adamantly rejected the offer and said he didn't bother to know the details. He added that the Asian championships hosting is his commitment with the Filipino people.

The reason for Japan's sudden urge to host is that they want to use the ultra-high tech World Cup facilities in Yokohama, Go quoted the Japanese official as saying.

GO

"But how can I explain that to 80 million Filipinos who are expecting to see the championships next year," said Go. "It is surely a very attractive compromise, but our commitment to the country is definitely non-negotiable."

He added that preparations are already in full swing with the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association on top of the groundwork.

"I don't want to disappoint our partners in the PSC especially chair Eric Buhain," said Go. "We don't want to let everybody down."

Buhain refused to make a comment but stood by his earlier promise to support the Asian.

Go also ruled out the possibility of a co-hosting similar to the partnership Japan had with Korea during the World Cup of football because such arrangement won't work in track and field.

"It would be very impossible because these 40 or so member-nations can't divide their athletes between two playing venues," said Go. "It's simply not being done in track and field."

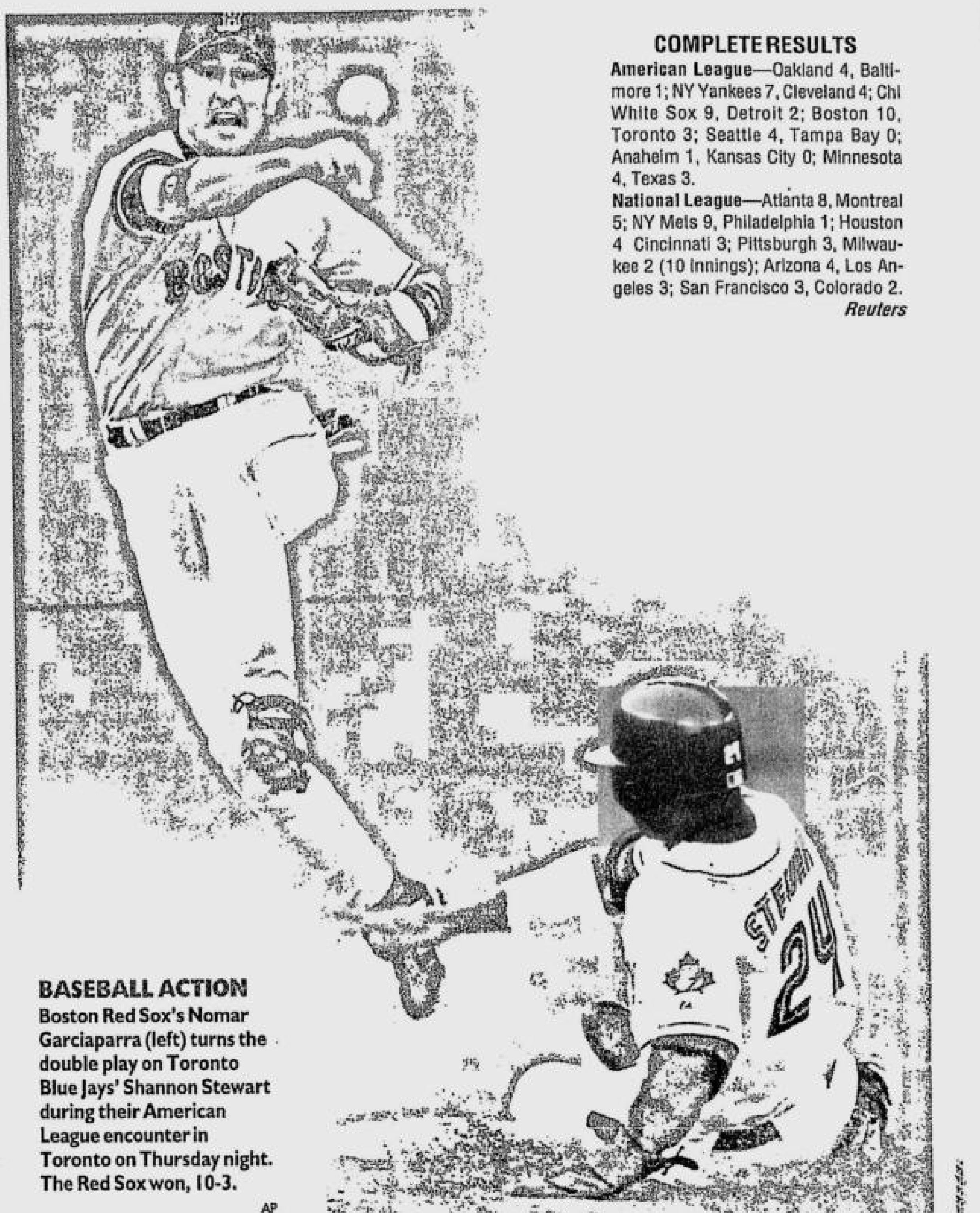
He said Nicholas called up from Singapore asking him if "there is a possibility you can give way to Japan," adding that Japan is willing to offer concessions with the Philippines.

COMPLETE RESULTS

American League—Oakland 4, Baltimore 1; NY Yankees 7, Cleveland 4; Chi White Sox 9, Detroit 2; Boston 10, Toronto 3; Seattle 4, Tampa Bay 0; Anaheim 1, Kansas City 0; Minnesota 4, Texas 3.

National League—Atlanta 8, Montreal 5; NY Mets 9, Philadelphia 1; Houston 4 Cincinnati 3; Pittsburgh 3, Milwaukee 2 (10 Innings); Arizona 4, Los Angeles 3; San Francisco 3, Colorado 2.

Reuters


BASEBALL ACTION
Boston Red Sox's Nomar Garciaparra (left) turns the double play on Toronto Blue Jays' Shannon Stewart during their American League encounter in Toronto on Thursday night. The Red Sox won, 10-3.
AP

All set for Cardinal Sin Cup

THE FIRST Cardinal's Cup, a one-day tournament honoring His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin, will be played Thursday, Aug. 29, organizing committee chair Bishop Soc Villegas said yesterday.

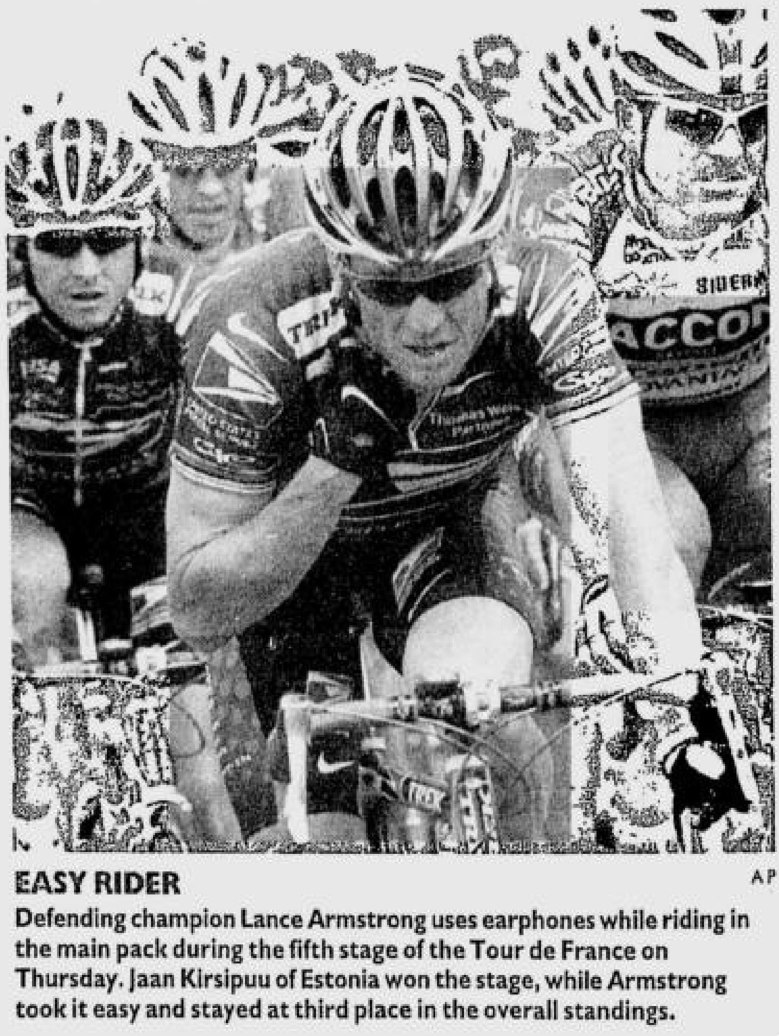
"Initially, we are launching this tournament to celebrate the Cardinal's 74th birthday," Bishop Villegas told sportswriters in a press conference at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club Veranda yesterday.

"As equally important, we are starting this annual Cardinal's Cup Invitational to raise funds for the religion teachers of the Archdiocese of Manila," he added.

The 18-hole invitational event is slated at the Wack Wack's par 72 West course, adjacent to its more famous neighbor East course, original home of the Philippine Open.

"We are also raising funds because there is an urgent need for trained catechists to educate our youth in the fundamental tenets of our religion to inculcate in them Christian moral values," said golfing businessman Louie O. Reyes, Bishop Villegas' executive secretary.

Other members of the organizing committee are Manolo Carmona, Ricardo Quintos, Rod Feliciano, Philip Ella Juico, Joe Feliciano, Boomba Consunji, Nick Villasenor, Ramon Veloso, Gerald Raymundo, Jun Reyes and Col. Abe Villanueva.


AP.

EASY RIDER
Defending champion Lance Armstrong uses earphones while riding in the main pack during the fifth stage of the Tour de France on Thursday. Jaan Kirsipuu of Estonia won the stage, while Armstrong took it easy and stayed at third place in the overall standings.

Karting series 6th leg today

TOP contender Arvin Drueco, carrying the colors of Edgesports-Motorex-Kart Plaza, guns for a crucial win to beef up his bid for the Intercon-A title today in the sixth leg of the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Drueco, a 16-year-old Mapua mechanical engineering student, is currently fourth overall with 137 points behind frontrunning Ryan Francisco (156), Jeremy Marquez (147) and Dado Peña (144).

But a big win could install him as new leader.

"The standings are so close that any of us four can win the title. I know how good my rivals are but I'm confident. I'll give it my best," said Drueco.

Drueco, who captured the 2002 GMA Cup, won three of the nine races in come-from-behind fashion to clinch last year's Formula SL Light runner-up plum.

He did the same thing in ruling the fourth leg where he climbed up from sixth place for a big upset over the much-favored Francisco, Marquez and Peña.

"He did it before and we are confident he'll do it again," said Patrick Chua, general manager of Motorex Performance lubricants.

"He's one of the country's young top caliber drivers today and we believe the tough competition in the Intercon-A class would be a big test to the high quality performance of Motorex Lubricants," he added.

Special Olympics slated July 20

THE SPECIAL Olympics Philippines will hold the Manila Games on July 20 at the Ateneo High School grounds with close to 700 mentally handicapped children vying for honors in seven events.

Four hundred teachers, coaches, supervisors, eye specialists and volunteers will also attend the one-day sportsfest set from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

According to SOP chair Alexander P. Babst, competition will be conducted in aquatics, athletics, basketball, football, table tennis, bowling and volleyball. Bowling will be staged at the Power Plant in Rockwell.

The meet serves as preparation for the National Games set Dec. 2-5 this year at Subic and the Special Olympics International slated June 20-29 next year in Dublin, Ireland.

The event provides a venue for special children to be exposed to sports, giving them the opportunity to develop physical, social and emotional skills through a friendly and encouraging atmosphere of competitiveness.

The Manila Games are sponsored by Kris Aquino and Lorena Garcia of Game KNB, Manulife Financial, Northwest Airlines, Cathay Pacific, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, former President Fidel V. Ramos, Standard Insurance, Central Realty, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Metro Bank Foundation and Zonta Metro Rizal.

Doping in tennis revealed

SYDNEY, Australia—Use of performance-enhancing substances is rife in professional tennis and the anti-doping program is a "dud," Australia's chief drug tester was quoted saying Friday.

Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA) chief executive John Mendoza told The Australian newspaper that tennis authorities were living in a "fool's paradise" if they didn't recognize the problem.

"Tennis is heavily under the influence of doping and (tennis authorities) are in denial if they don't accept that," Mendoza said.

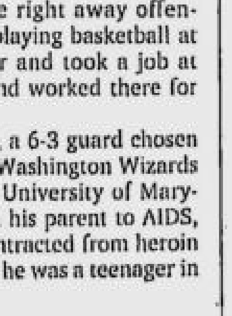
Mendoza said the problem was particularly prevalent in the women's game, where players needed to be "abnormal in body physique" to have any chance of reaching No. 1.

His comments came in the wake of an announcement last week that out-of-competition drug testing would be introduced on the women's tour–a move opposed by leading players Venus Williams and Jennifer Capriati. *AP*

Yao Ming has few backers

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao



SOME of this year's NBA first-round draft choices have a colorful if not shaky background.

China's Yao Ming, who made history when the Houston Rockets took the first international player without any US high school or college ball experience ever to be chosen No. 1 overall in an NBA draft, has few supporters among American sportswriters.

Doubting Thomases say the 7-5 Ming is a Rik Smits (the retired Dutchman who had a so-so career with the Indiana Pacers) or a Vlade Divac (the current Sacramento Kings starting center) at best—which really is saying nothing great—and a Shawn Bradley (the Dallas Mavericks stiff) at worst. The insinuation is that Yao is not worthy of a No. 1 overall pick.

Jay Williams, the No. 2 draftee by the Chicago Bulls out of Duke University, was known as Jason Williams during his Blue Devils stint. But the 6-2 playmaker now wants the media and fans to call him Jay so that he won't be confused with two other same-sounding names with an unsavory reputation—erratic Memphis Grizzlies guard Jason Williams and former New Jersey Net Jayson Williams, who is facing a first-degree manslaughter charge in the death of a limo driver at his home on Valentine's Day this year.

Republic of Georgia's Nikoloz Tskitishvili, drafted fifth by the Denver Nuggets, was a classic ballet dancer in his homeland before turning to basketball when he was about 15 because the 6-11, 19-year-old small forward "grew so tall that he couldn't find partners," according to his Benetton Treviso coach Mike D'Antoni, a former NBA player who now makes a living in the Italian League.

Young Amare Stoudemire (no relation to Portland's Damon Stoudamire), who was drafted No. 9 by the Phoenix Suns out of Cypress Creek High School in Orlando, Florida and is the only prep schooler to be chosen in the two-round draft, had a troubled childhood. The 6-10 power forward was 12 when his father died in his sleep. His mom jailed many times for various offenses, usually theft or drugs. His older brother Hazell Jr. is in a New York prison on drug and sexual abuse convictions. The 19-year-old Stoudemire attended six different high schools, including three as a junior, because of eligibility problems.

Connecticut's Caron Butler, who was picked 10th by the Miami Heat, could have easily been in gang wars instead of NBA battles. The 22-year-old, 6-7 forward grew up in a rough neighborhood in Racine, Wisconsion. He was arrested 15 times before he was 15 and spent 14 months in a state prison for bringing a gun and cocaine to school. When he was released in Aug. 1996 at age 16, Butler, one of the few rookies expected to step in and contribute right away offensively, began playing basketball at a youth center and took a job at Burger King and worked there for 18 months.

Juan Dixon, a 6-3 guard chosen No. 17 by the Washington Wizards out of nearby University of Maryland, lost both his parent to AIDS, which they contracted from heroin needles, when he was a teenager in Baltimore.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by
Lorenzo Manguiat

POOL: World Professional Pool Championships 2002, Day 1, 1st Session at 9 p.m., 2nd Session tomorrow at 2 a.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: LPGA Wegmans Rochester International, Third Round at 7 a.m. on ESPN

PGA Greater Milwaukee Open, First Round at 9 a.m. (r), Second Round at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports

LPGA Evian Masters, Third Round at 11:30 a.m. on Star Sports

U.S. Women's Open Golf Championships, Third Round at 8 p.m. (r) on ESPN

KROGER CLASSIC

Delasin trails Teske by 1 shot

SYLVANIA, Ohio—On a day when everyone else struggled with the wind, Rachel Teske strung together four birdies to shoot a 67 and grab the first-round lead Thursday at the Jamie Farr Kroger Classic.

Swirling gusts turned shot selection into a nightmare, frequently throwing shots back at the players or hurling them off target.

Teske, who lost a playoff to Annika Sorenstam two years ago at the Farr, turned a humdrum round into a good one with a hot streak to finish the back nine.

Treading water at 1 over through her first five holes after starting on the 10th tee, she chipped in from 30 feet at the 15th hole; rolled in a 25-foot putt at the 16th; and then hit wedges to 4 feet and 5 feet on the back-to-back par-5s.

She parred eight of the last nine holes, making a 20-foot birdie putt on the fourth hole for the lead.

Defending champion and three-time Farr winner Se Ri Pak stumbled to a 72, her first round over par at the tournament since 1997.

Dorothy Delasin, with two of her three career wins in Ohio at the Giant Eagle tournament, was a shot back at 68 after a bogey-free round. She was tied with rookie Jeanne-Marie Busuttil, born in France but a product of Arizona State University's women's golf program.

Delasin birdied three holes in a five-hole stretch, twice hitting to 4 feet for relatively easy birdie putts.

Busuttil, who has not finished better than a tie for 30th in her 13 tournaments this year, had five birdies. She birdied two of the last three holes to pull into a share of second.

Busuttil's round included a remarkable par. She hit her drive out of bounds on the par-4 10th hole, then hit a second drive into the middle of the fairway. Her 9-iron from 142 yards rolled into the cup.

Only four of the top 10 players on the LPGA money list are in the field, with the top two–Sorenstam and U.S. Open winner Juli Inkster–among the no-shows.

Sorenstam's sister Charlotta, however, shot a 69. She was joined at 2 under by rookie Beth Bauer, Donna Andrews, South Korea's Hee-Won Han, Kris Tschetter, Gloria Park and Namika Omata.

Two-time Farr winner Kelly Robbins, Laura Davies and Laura Diaz were among those at 1-under 70.

Nancy Lopez, making her LPGA farewell tour, received a warm reception from the large galleries that followed her around Highland Meadows Golf Course. She shot a 74. Lopez has finished second four times in the Farr. *AP*

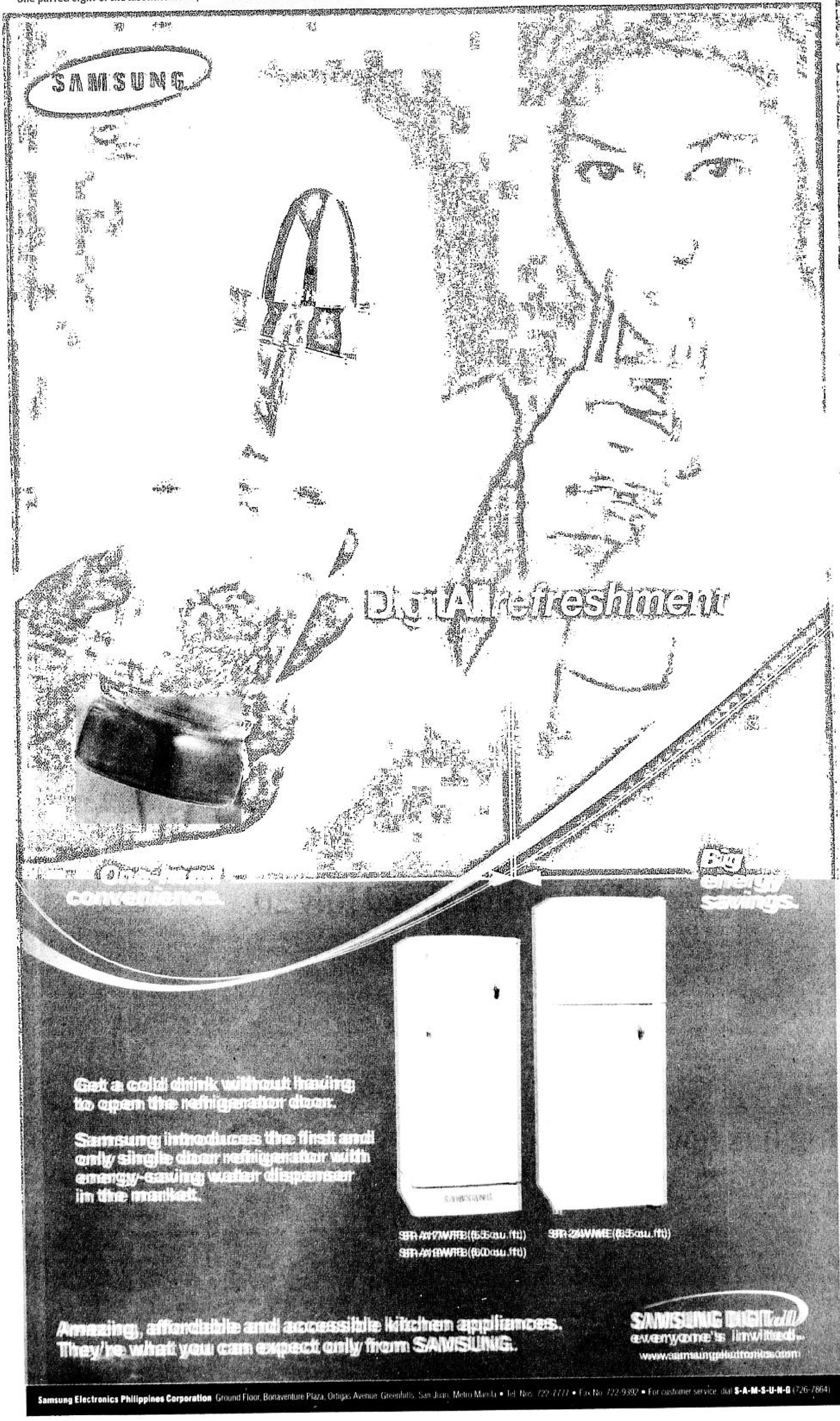
Armour ahead

MILWAUKEE—Bo Van Pelt, easing back on his drives, drastically improved his accuracy at Brown Deer Park on Thursday, shooting a 7-under 64, one shot behind leader Tommy Armour III in the opening round of the Greater Milwaukee Open.

"I finally didn't put myself in a hole," said Van Pelt, 27, who is seeking his first PGA Tour victory. "I try to hit the greatest shot all the time. Sometimes you just have to scale it back, you don't have to be a hero all the time."

While Van Pelt, whose best finish is a tie for 20th at the 1999 Bell Canadian Open, was ecstatic, Armour, who won the Phoenix Open 12 years ago for his only PGA Tour victory, shrugged off his quick start.

DELASIN watches her approach shot on the ninth hole. AP



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Agojo still the leader despite 79

TEMECULA—Jayvie Agojo of the Philippines kept her composure despite an early double-par misadventure, retaining a share of the lead after the penultimate round Thursday (Friday in Manila) of the Temecula International junior golf championships here.

Making an 8 on the par-4 No. 5 which was actually her third hole in a shotgun tee-off, Agojo needed all the mental toughness to still finish with a seven-over-par 79 at the Pala Mesa course for a 36-hole aggregate of 150. She earlier had a one-under 71 at the nearby SCGA Members Club layout.

The 15-year-old Agojo, whose trip here is sponsored by Philippine Airlines, tees off in the final round today tied for the lead with Californian Meranie Jaslowski as the OB Montessori student guns for a rare three-peat in the Class B (13-15 years division).

Tonton Asistio and Miko Yee likewise kept their championship hopes alive in boys Class B (12-13 years) by staying among the top four with one round left.

Asistio scored a 77 and battled back to third place with a 159 aggregate while Yee found himself dropping from second to fourth after a dismal 84-160.

The Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines entries here–part of a 24-player contingent for next week's Callaway Junior World championships–are using the Temecula tourney as their final preparation for the 43-nation event.

"I almost threw everything away in that hole. I tried my best not to lose my concentration," said Agojo. "It's like starting from scratch again tomorrow and I hope to be able to keep my focus."

Agojo, a member of the national training pool, needed six strokes before she reached the green on the fifth after a series of strewn shots including one that stayed on the branch of a tree resulting in a penalty.

Jong Arcano

Golf Power today

GOLF Power today features the Philippine Junior Golf Federation's participation in the 8th Damai Indah-Panin Bank Asean Junior Golf Championships 2002 held last week in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Two of the country's top junior golfers, Jenz Tecson and Frederick Garcia, competed in the annual junior event. Jenz Tecson placed third in the 15-17 age division.

Also featured in the show are golf tips, the regular dose of trivia, definition of golf terms and rules and a profile on golf personality, Bones Floro.

Golf Power, now on its seventh year, is aired every Saturday at 2 p.m. on RPN-9 and is hosted by golf professional Gerard Cantada. The weekly golf program is produced by Joe Cantada Sports. This week's episode is sponsored by Absolute Pure Distilled Drinking Water.

FOUR DIGIT
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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Sanchez-Vicario reaches quarterfinals

BRUSSELS, Belgium—Top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario cruised into the quarterfinals of the $140,000 French Community Championships Thursday, defeating fellow Spaniard Gala Leon Garcia 6-2, 6-3. The former world No. 1 now ranked 32 will play another of her countrywomen, fifth-seeded Magui Serna in the quarterfinals. *AP*

NU takes first crack at Ateneo

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
12 p.m.—UP vs UE
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs NU

By Dennis U. Eroa

RIVAL La Salle will be at the sidelines watching intently as Ateneo starts its bid for the elusive basketball crown when it collides with host National University in the inaugurals of the 65th UAAP season today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ateneo, which last savored glory when it won back-to-back titles in 1987-88, meets NU at 4 p.m. University of the Philippines tackles University of the East at 2 p.m.

Popular entertainer Gary Valenciano stars in the traditional opening-day show centering on this year's theme "Youth of today, future of tomorrow, searching for a new beginning."

The "Gimme Five" drive of multi-titled La Salle blasts off tomorrow when the Green Archers test the Far Eastern University Tamaraws at 4 p.m. Minus the hot-shooting Ren Ren Ritualo, La Salle continues to possess a smooth playing lineup bannered by Mike Cortez, Mark Cardona, Carlo Sharma and Willy Wilson.

Fresh from winning the hotly contested PBL Chairman's Cup, the Blue Eagles are seeded first this year by observers.

Focus will be on playmaking whiz LA Tenorio, a sophomore, who must fill in the shoes of Celino Cruz, who quarterbacked Ateneo to its first-ever PBL crown.

Power-playing Enrico Villanueva, unanimous choice as PBL MVP by the Press Corps, and two-time MVP Rich Alvarez give the Eagles a deadly frontline despite the absence of Paolo Bugia, who is still recovering from a knee injury.

Speedster Froilan Baguion, a member of last year's mythical five, and skipper Jeff Napa will carry the brunt of the Bulldogs' campaign, who lost to eventual titlist La Salle in last year's Final Four.

The Inquirer learned, however, that Baguion isn't supposed to suit up for the Bulldogs as he was ejected during NU's losing effort against La Salle in last year's semis. This offense carries an automatic one-game suspension as per UAAP rule.

"If Baguion will be allowed to play, the UAAP is going to set a bad precedent," said the INQUIRER source. Efforts by the INQUIRER to reach UAAP president Sonny Paguia failed at presstime.

PENA
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LONG
00

DAVONN Harp (left) shoots over Dorian Pena and Art Long during the Batang Red Bull-San Miguel Beer tussle in the PBA Commissioner's Cup on Thursday. Red Bull won, 78-73. ROMY HOMILLADA

NCAA postponed anew

NCAA games were again postponed yesterday for the third straight playing date. NCAA officials deemed the Rizal Memorial Coliseum unsafe for playing due to a slippery floor. Matches will resume on Wednesday. *June Navarro*

SAMSUNG CUP

Express battle Nationals today

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
3:45 p.m.—FedEx vs Selecta-RP
5:45 p.m.—Alaska vs Shell

FEDERAL Express aims to erase the memory of a recent loss when the Express meet the Selecta-RP Team today in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Alaska, meanwhile, tries to capitalize on its 82-73 conquest of the Express when they gun for a share of the lead against the Shell Turbo Chargers in the other match.

The Aces, on a two-game roll after beating the Express and the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs for a 3-1 slate, are favored to create a three-way tie at the top along with Batang Red Bull and Coca-Cola.

Ajani Williams, Chris Carawell, Rob Duat and John Arigo will make sure of that.

But don't count the Turbo Chargers out. They have found the perfect import combination in Cedric Webber and Johnny Jackson as they shocked Batang Red Bull, 82-81, to register their first victory of the conference.

Paolo lifts Sta. Lucia Realty

DUMAGUETE CITY—Sniper Paolo Mendoza delivered the crucial hits as Sta. Lucia Realty repulsed Barangay Ginebra, 89-76, in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Lamberto Macias Coliseum here.

The six-footer Mendoza buried two triples and two free throws in the final four minutes as the Realtors recovered from the shock of losing a 20-point bulge, 40-60, in the third period. Sta. Lucia improved its record to 3-2 in a tie with with Talk N Text. Barangay Ginebra dropped to 2-4.

SMB-Red Bull tiff nets P.4-M fines

Meanwhile, PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino slapped a total of P405,000 in fines to erring players and personnel during the San Miguel-Red Bull tussle last Thursday. San Miguel import Art Long and his Red Bull counterpart Antonio Lang were fined P50,000 each for unsportsmanlike conducts while the rest of the players were fined P10,000 each for leaving the bench. Lordy Tugade of Red Bull drew P20,000 for being a second time offender. Red Bull's Roel Nadurata was fined P15,000, fellow assistant coach Gil Lumberio P10,000, John Lim P5,000, and the utility staff P5,000. San Miguel interim coach Siot Tanquincen was also fined P5,000, same as the utility staff.

RP Youth aspirants down to 18

By Roy Luarca

THE LIST of candidates to the Philippine Youth team for the 3rd Junior Southeast Asia Basketball Championship slated in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from July 28-Aug. 4 is now down to 18.

Head coach Johnny Tam said vying for slots to the 18-and-under tournament are Mark Lester Benitez (6-foot-6), Jerson Torculas (5-10), Bryan Faundo (6-6), Jonathan Fernandez (6-1) , Jayfelson Agbayani (6-2), Benjamin Gadi (6-3), Michael Vincent Baldos (6-4). Angelo Carlo Balbuena (5-8), Claiford Arao (6-6), Hermes Sumalinog Jr. (6-2), Kevin Rae Astorga (6-2), Jobe Sherwin Nkemakolam (6-5), Rommel Balboa (6-5), Raymund Pacurib (5-11), Mark Louie Pradas (6-2), Carlo cecilia (6-3), Roel Aurelio Escueta (5-8) and Paul Nikki Fedelicio (5-8).

Considered as shoo-ins to the team to be sponsored by Burlington socks are Benitez, Nkemakolam, Fedelicio, Sumalinog and Fernandez. Aside from Rudy Tan's Burlington socks, the team is also being supported by Accel, Air 21 and Mayor Rey Baula.

Iverson faces 54 years in prison

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson will be charged with assault and other offenses for forcing his way into an apartment with a gun and threatening two men while looking for his wife, authorities said.

The NBA All-Star, no stranger to trouble on and off the court, will be allowed to surrender to police Tuesday morning after his lawyer returns from vacation, police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson said Thursday. Iverson must remain inside his suburban Philadelphia mansion until then.

"If Iverson is seen on the street or out partying, we will arrest him," Johnson said.

Iverson and an uncle are accused of barging into a cousin's apartment on the morning of July 3 as the Philadelphia 76ers' guard searched for his wife, Tawanna. Iverson allegedly had thrown her out of their house naked during a dispute, according to tapes of a 911 call obtained by The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Police searched Iverson's mansion and his uncle's home Thursday, looking for the gun and other evidence.

Iverson will be charged with criminal trespass, simple assault, terroristic threats and gun offenses, District Attorney Lynne Abraham said. Four of the counts are felonies, and Iverson faces up to 54 years in prison if convicted of all the charges.

Iverson's uncle, Gregory Iverson, was also charged with criminal trespass, simple assault, terroristic threats and other offenses.

"We had two complaints we felt were credible. Detectives did a very thorough, complete and professional investigation," Johnson said.

Sixers coach Larry Brown and general manager Billy King said they will support Iverson through the legal process.

Brown, who spoke to Iverson on Thursday, said his star player is "hurting."

"I'm hopeful this thing gets resolved and this kid can move on with his life," Brown said. "He's part of our family and will always be a part of our family." *AP*

IVERSON and his wife, Tawana Turner, arrive at a Philadelphia screening of M. Night Shyamalan's movie "Unbreakable," in this Nov. 16, 2000 photo. Iverson is accused of barging into an apartment and threatening two men with a gun while looking for Turner last week. AP

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1996, Ruben Sasutil beat Cesar Ababa, 3 and 1, to win the Philip Morris Match Play in Canlubang, Laguna. Also to day in 1996, Darwin Laylo beat Christopher Rodriguez in 84 moves of Queen's Pawn Opening to bag the July edition of the Metropolitan Chess Club Non-master chess tournament at Greenhills Shopping Center.

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Poll officials name Manila 'hot spots' /A28
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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Anjo Yllana aide slain in traffic shooting /A31
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FIGHT OVER PROPERTY

NBI to file raps vs Nida suspects

By Philip C. Tubeza

EIGHT months after the brutal killing of movie star Nida Blanca, the National Bureau of Investigation said it has wound up its investigation of the case and is set to file charges against the people behind the murder, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco announced yesterday.

"We have a strong case," Wycoco told reporters. "It will be filed immediately after the (barangay) elections next week."

He said the mastermind and other suspects in the killing will be charged before the Department of Justice.

He said the NBI cracked the case after some of the evidence it collected corresponded with the statement of a witness.

Wycoco declined to identify the witness, but said he is neither the controversial Philip Medel nor Omar Manonggoring, who allegedly tried to extort money from Blanca's daughter, Kaye Torres.

"This is an old witness," Wycoco said. "We went back to (the witness) when we noticed that (the witness') statement matched the circumstantial evidence."

Wycoco said the bureau has at least two other witnesses who are set to testify once the case goes to court.

However, he also declined to name "the persons" who will be charged with Blanca's murder.

He said NBI investigators and members of the national police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group met yesterday at 4 p.m. in Camp Crame to work out plans for their joint filing of the case.

"We are planning on a joint filing by both the NBI and the CIDG," he said.

The CIDG first investigated the murder, but its case before the justice department fell through when Medel, their "self-confessed killer," recanted his testimony and accused the police of torturing him.

The CIDG said Medel killed Blanca on the orders of the actress' American husband, Rod Lauren Strunk.

Strunk allegedly hired Medel, through Mike Martinez, to torture the actress into producing a document related to her will.

The NBI later lost contact with Medel, who went back to Cebu last summer after his brother was shot dead. Strunk left for the United States in January.

Wycoco said the NBI took up the investigation where the CIDG left off.

He said the killing had something to do with the fight over Blanca's "property."

When asked if the people to be charged next week are still in the country, Wycoco said "some are."

"This case would be closed once charges have been filed in court and arrests warrants issued against the suspects," Wycoco said.

Blanca was found dead inside her car at the Atlanta Center building in San Juan on the morning of Nov. 7, 2001.

Fernando stops road work for blocking traffic

FERNANDO

By Leila B. Salaverria

METRO Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando showed he was not kidding when he said he would target contractors who block traffic flow.

Even when the MMDA has not taken over the C-5-Boni Serrano-Katipunan Interchange project, Fernando ordered the project's contractor, the China State Contractor, to stop work for not following MMDA regulations. The China State road work reportedly was taking up too much road space and had debris strewn all over.

Fernando issued the order even as he said he would be asking for the support of no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in his work as MMDA chair.

"It is an accepted reality that the construction of major infrastructure projects will slow down traffic," he said in a statement, referring to the China State work. "But that does not mean we should increase the misery of the public by not observing good housekeeping."

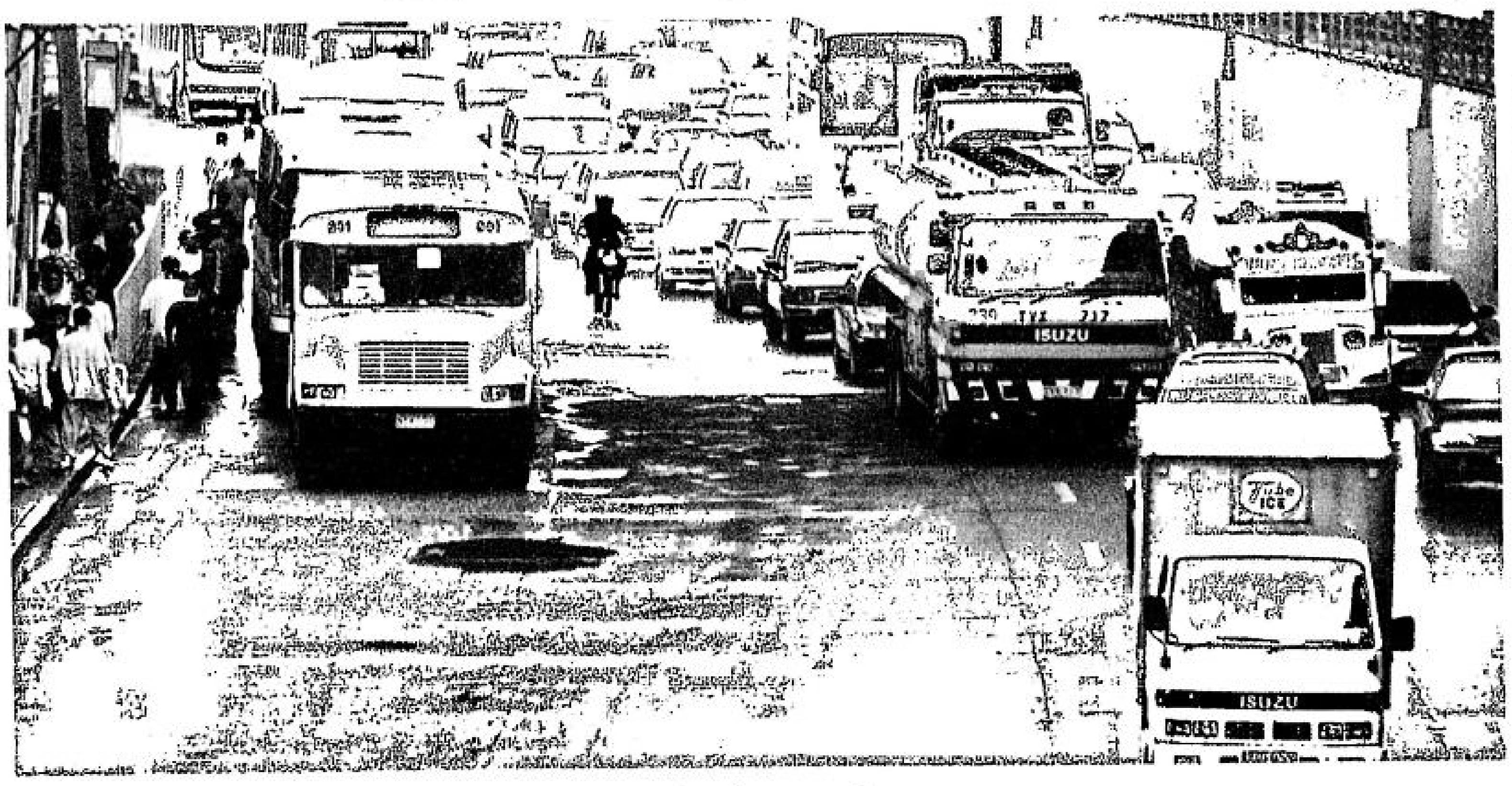
MMDA rules require contractors to put up fences, barricades and proper warning signs at work sites, but these should not block the roads. They should also ensure that the soil, gravel and other construction debris must be in their proper place.

Fernando said the work stoppage order, issued July 10, should serve as a warning to all public works contractors to follow the rules, especially contractors involved in major infrastructure projects.

He had said earlier that if contractors do not finish their work on time, the MMDA would complete the project but would charge the expense to the contractors. He had stressed that complying with the proposed timetable is important because delays in construction work mean that traffic flow would remain impeded.

MMDA traffic director Ernesto Camarillo yesterday said China State Contractor could resume its work as soon as it has complied with MMDA regulations. But it should not let the MMDA catch it violating the rules again, Camarillo added.

FERNANDO STOPS/ A28



POTHOLE PERIOD

After the rains come the potholes, such as these ones in the middle of a portion of Edsa near Estrella Street in Makati, where traffic moves very slowly because vehicles are avoiding the craters created by the weekend downpour. The scene is repeated in many other pothole-riddled streets.

ROMY HOMILLADA

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Alfie Lorenzo, tabloid editor, convicted of libel

By Agnes E. Donato

MOVIE talent manager and columnist Alfie Lorenzo, the managing editor and the publisher of a tabloid where he writes his column, have been sentenced to a maximum of two years and four months of imprisonment after a Quezon City court found them guilty of libel.

Convicted with Lorenzo were Abante publisher Allan Macasaet and managing editor Nicholas Quijano.

In his 11-page decision, Judge Apolinario Bruselas Jr. of the QC Regional Trial Court Branch 93 ruled in favor of former aspiring actor Lorenzo Silva, who filed the libel charges in 1997.

Lorenzo, who has been a show biz columnist for 35 years, had repeatedly referred to Silva as "Lorenz Saliva," in several articles he wrote in his Abante column from April to May 1996.

In his defense, Lorenzo claimed that he wrote the articles merely to clarify Silva's public statements accusing him of sexual harassment.

He said the word "saliva" which he used to refer to the complainant was not motivated by malice. He said that in show business, "some deformities are even used to the advantage of movie personalities" and to make them easily known by the public.

But Judge Bruselas said Lorenzo's actions were unjustified and "premature," noting that no sexual harassment charges had been actually filed against him by Silva.

"And if he was using his column to 'defend' himself, his professional objectivity as a writer suffers from an unrestrained personal agenda to defame non-friendly entities," Bruselas said.

ALFIE LORENZO/ A28

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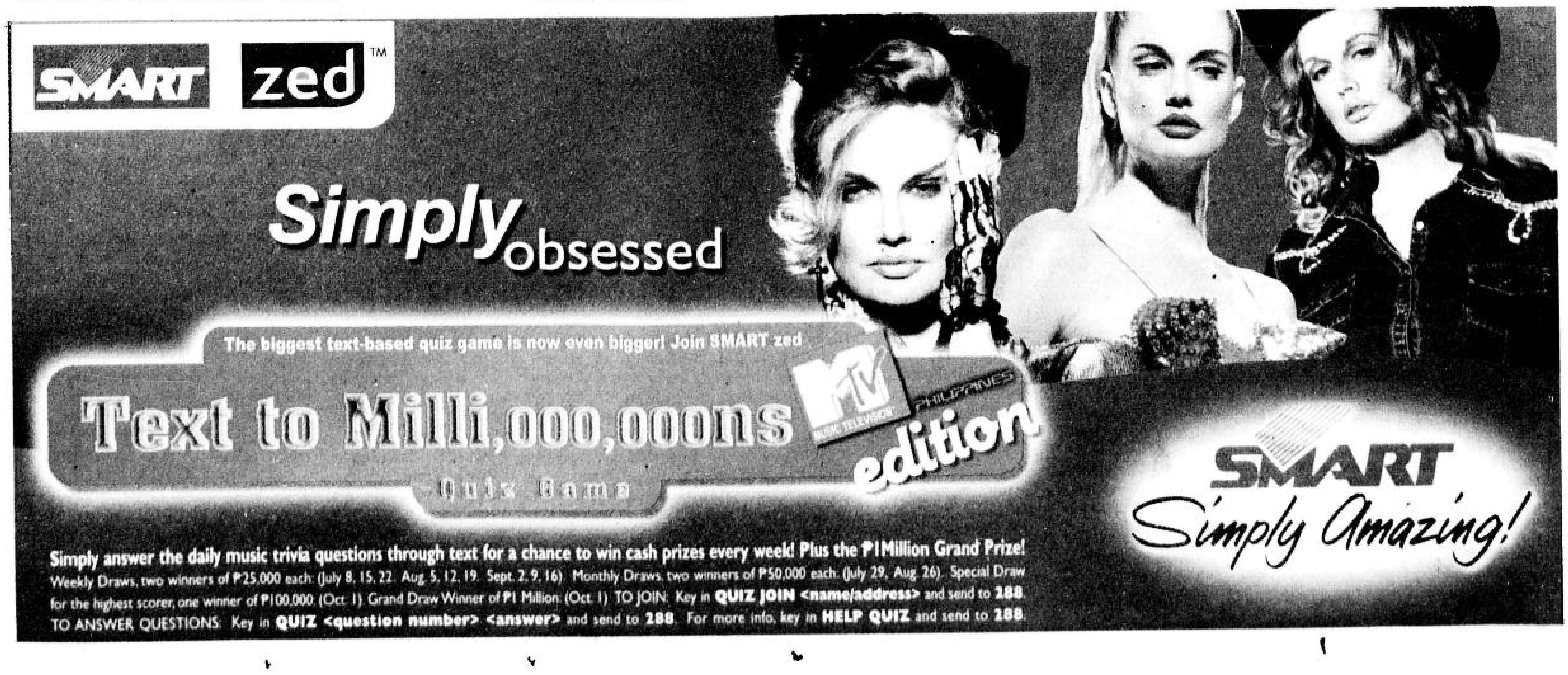

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METROBRIEFS

Rescued in Caloocan

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation rescued six teenage girls from a Caloocan City brothel and arrested brothel operator, Alfred V. Sayo, 56, alias Boy, of 134 6th Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan, according to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco. Lawyer Angelica V. Somera, NBI-Violence Against Women and Children Division chief, said they raided the brothel on 6th Avenue in Caloocan after receiving a complaint from a television network. She said that two NBI agents were able to confirm on July 9 that Sayo was selling minors. She said that the agents were even able to hire a girl for P800 from his assistant Raul Flores. Somera said that NBI agents raided the brothel the following day, rescuing seven women, six of whom were minors, and arresting Sayo. She said that the six teenage girls had admitted that Sayo forced them into prostitution. Sayo would be charged before the Department of Justice for violating the country's child abuse law, according to Somera.

Philip C. Tubeza

Killed in Sampaloc

SMART PHONE merchandiser Roderick J. Pomeda, 32, was shot dead in front of his wife in Sampaloc, Manila on Thursday, police said. Two unidentified men shot Pomeda in the head while he was walking home with his wife at the corner of Laon Laan and Sisa streets in Sampaloc, said Detective Raul Olavario of the Western Police District-Homicide Section. Pomeda's wife told investigators that she would be able to identify her husband's killers.

Philip C. Tubeza

Abducted on Timog

KOREAN student Lee Tae Seong, 33, was abducted at gunpoint in Quezon City on Wednesday by four heavily armed men believed to be agents of the National Bureau of Investigation. Police said Lee was standing in front of the Sir Williams Apartelle on Timog Avenue in Quezon City supposedly waiting for his friends Melchor Sario and Ahn Yun when a green Toyota RAV 4 without license plates stopped in front of the foreigner. A woman identified only as "Gina" and supposedly Lee's girlfriend alighted from the vehicle together with three armed men, who dragged Lee into the vehicle, according to police. Lee's friends told police they saw their friend being dragged into the vehicle and tried to stop the suspects from taking off with Lee. They said the suspects then pointed their guns at them and told them not to interfere. It was learned that Lee was facing a rape case.

Alcuin Papa

Robbed in Pasay

THE cremation of Japanese Ishimaru Mikio was put on hold after an employee of the funeral home entrusted with his body ran off with the money to pay for the cremation, police said. Authorities are now hunting down Randy Ranillo, an all-around utility personnel of the Veronica Funeral Homes on A. Arnaiz St. in Pasay City, after he allegedly stole the P8,000 meant to pay for Mikio's cremation. Branch manager of the Veronica Funeral Homes Jeffrey Libunao, 30, told police that the Japanese embassy had provided the money for Mikio's cremation. He said he had entrusted the money to Ranillo and had instructed him to take care of cremating the body.

Leila Salaverria

Suffocated in Valenzuela

BIENVENIDO Victor, 73, died from suffocation on Thursday after he allegedly inhaled toxic fumes emitted by Dukasan Plastic Inc. in Valenzuela City, police said. Victor died on the way to the Valenzuela General Hospital. Victor's son Reynaldo told police his father could have died after inhaling the fumes of burning plastic coming from the factory. Residents in the area have been complaining about the fumes coming from the factory owned by Eob Kyo Lee. They said they often smell the fumes at night. Police said they are conducting investigation to determine if the factory is liable for Victor's death.

Tina Santos

Assaulted in Malate

JAPANESE tourist Nakati Takashi lost P136,000 worth of valuables to two armed men on Wednesday on Remedios Street in Malate, Manila. Police said the suspects took Takashi's P60,000 Sony camera, P42,000 Bulgari wristwatch, P32,000 gold ring, and P2,000 in cash. Takashi was walking along the sidewalk before dawn on Wednesday when the suspects approached him, pokes a knife at him and announced the holdup, police said. Australian tourist Sam Alderuccio, 76, accused Anita Santos, 22, of stealing his bankbook and 3,360 Australian dollars on Wednesday, police said. He told police that the theft happened inside his room at the Casa Blanca Apartments where he is temporarily billeted. He said he reported the incident only for record purposes.

Philip C. Tubeza

Busted in Parañaque

BADRUDIN Balimbingan, 26, and Musaidin Ali, 35, two suspects in Parañaque's most wanted list, were arrested on Wednesday during a buy-bust operation, where P.2M worth of high-grade shabu was also confiscated. Police said that 197.2 grams of shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride were found on the two. The shabu has a street value of P200,000, according to SPO3 Hyacinth Ocfemia. Ocfemia said buy-bust operation was conducted at 2:30 p.m. on July 10 at Barangay San Dionisio, Old Bonifacio St., Parañaque. The sale was conducted inside the suspects' Kia Van. Police said the suspects were arrested after the sale. The suspects are now under the custody of the Parañaque police and were charged for violating RA 6425.

Leila Salaverria

Trapped in Cubao

ALLEGED drug dealers Ramund Daryl Codinal, 21, and Gabriel Serafin Saulo, 31, were arrested on Thursday during two separate buy-bust operations, police said. Codinal is said to be the grandson of retired Philippine Navy official Commodore Domingo Calajate, who is also a ranking member of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM). Police said narcotics agents posed as shabu buyers and managed to set up a drug deal with Codinal. After Codinal received the agents' money, he was arrested and found with a plastic sachet containing an undetermined amount of shabu, police said. Authorities said they then ordered Codinal to send his cohort Saulo a text message saying that he wanted to buy shabu from him. Codinal acted as the buyer in the entrapment operation against Saulo at a fastfood outlet in Cubao. Two plastic sachets of shabu were also found on Saulo, police said. The suspects face charges of violation of Republic Act 6425, otherwise known as the Dangerous Drugs Act.

Alcuin Papa

Raped in Makati

CONSTRUCTION worker Gil Balato, 37, of 153 Teacher's Compound, Barangay West Rembo, Makati City Makati was arrested after a 15-year-old girl accused him of raping her and then molesting her twin sister. In her statement to the police, the victim, a high school student, said she was alone in their room about 3 p.m. on July 10 when the suspect, known to her as "Kuya Nono," barged in and raped her. She said she was frightened and shocked and was unable to fight back. She also told police that when Balato had finished, he laughed and told her, "Sa susunod ulit (until next time)." She said Balato also warned her not to tell anyone about the rape. Accompanied by her mother and twin sister, the victim complained to police about the rape. PO2 Maria Dela Paz T. Aldana and P/Insp. Balictar also learned that Balato had molested the rape victim's sister. The sister told police that she was watching TV in Balato's house last July 5 when he put his arm around her shoulder and grabbed her breasts. Balato is now under the custody of the Makati Police.

Leila Salaverria

Sued in Quezon City

ACTION star Ace Vergel filed charges of false testimony and estafa against his lawyer Rodolfo Mapili who had accused Vergel of failing to pay him his fees. Vergel, Ace York Aguilar in real life, filed the charges before the Quezon City prosecutor's office. Mapili has been Vergel's legal counsel since 1997, replacing Atty. Nicolas Ruiz and other lawyers in handling the actor's cases of possession of illegal drugs and illegal possession of firearms at branches 96 and 76 of the QC Regional Trial Court. The actor belied Mapili's allegations in a civil case the lawyer had filed against his client before the QC Regional Trial Court Branch 222. Mapili claimed that Vergel did not pay him his attorney's fees and that the actor's retainer for Mapili's legal services then was of "No Acquittal, No Attorney's Fee" basis. Mapili supposedly charged Vergel P200,000 for each of his four drug cases. Vergel said that Mapili was properly compensated for his legal services. He added that he had paid the lawyer a total amount ranging from P700,000 to P800,000.

Agnes E. Donato

Depot deal null and void

By Jerome Aning and Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MEMORANDUM of understanding between Manila and the Pandacan oil depot would be null and void unless the council passes a law that modifies an ordinance shutting down the depot, according to third district councilor Bernardito Ang.

Opposition councilors have also renewed their appeal to Mayor Lito Atienza to officially notify them about the agreement that city hall and the oil firms recently signed.

"It was the mayor who initiated the ordinance and we in the council passed it," Ang told the INQUIRER. "But he ignored us councilors when he entered into the MOU, which he now wants us to approve."

Ang argued that the ordinance that closed the depot remains effective despite the MOU. He said another ordinance must be passed to amend the phaseout provision before the MOU could be adopted.

Opposition councilors earlier threatened to ask a court to force the mayor, as the city's chief executive, to implement the ordinance that took effect on June 28.

Adopting Ang's position, independent councilor Isko Moreno proposed that the oil firms should be penalized for staying in the 30-hectare complex since the phaseout has been in effect.

He said Caltex, Shell and Petron should be fined P10 million for each of the six months that Atienza extended their stay in Pandacan.

Moreno said that the accumulated P180 million would be placed in a special bank account for the Pandacan residents. The fund would be used in case of any emergency in the depot that would affect the residents, he added.

In the June 26 MOU, the parties agreed that scaling down the depot's operations is the best way to address city hall's security and development concerns on the facility.

But the oil companies were required to shut down several of their tanks, set up a common distribution system and develop a buffer zone around the site to protect nearby communities.

Ang said that even if the Council is in recess, the MOU should have been transmitted to the council secretariat so that the aldermen could study it individually.

The councilor said that the MOU between the three oil firms is unfair to the other smaller oil storage or processing companies using the Pandacan site.

The city's business permits and license office said last week that 17 small companies operating in Pandacan have been refused permits to operate and therefore deemed closed.

Nagtahan Terminals Inc., which owns and operates the depot on Beata Street was padlocked last week.

Mon dela Peña, Nagtahan terminal general manager, said in a telephone interview that they were surprised with city hall's order for closure, which resulted to the impounding of 30 million liters of fuel worth about P500 million.

"We occupy only about two hectares of land while the Big Three oil firms occupy 30 hectares," he said. "We were ordered closed and the big firms were not."

But Dela Peña said Nagtahan Terminals and its locators were willing to cooperate with City Hall's development project for the Pandacan area.

"We are willing to put up a buffer zone, to reduce the number of our tanks and to put up walls and other safety measures—whatever livable arrangement there could be," he said.

Dela Peña said they were now in talks with the city government on how they can resume operations and that Manila Mayor Lito Atienza was "listening and responding favorably."

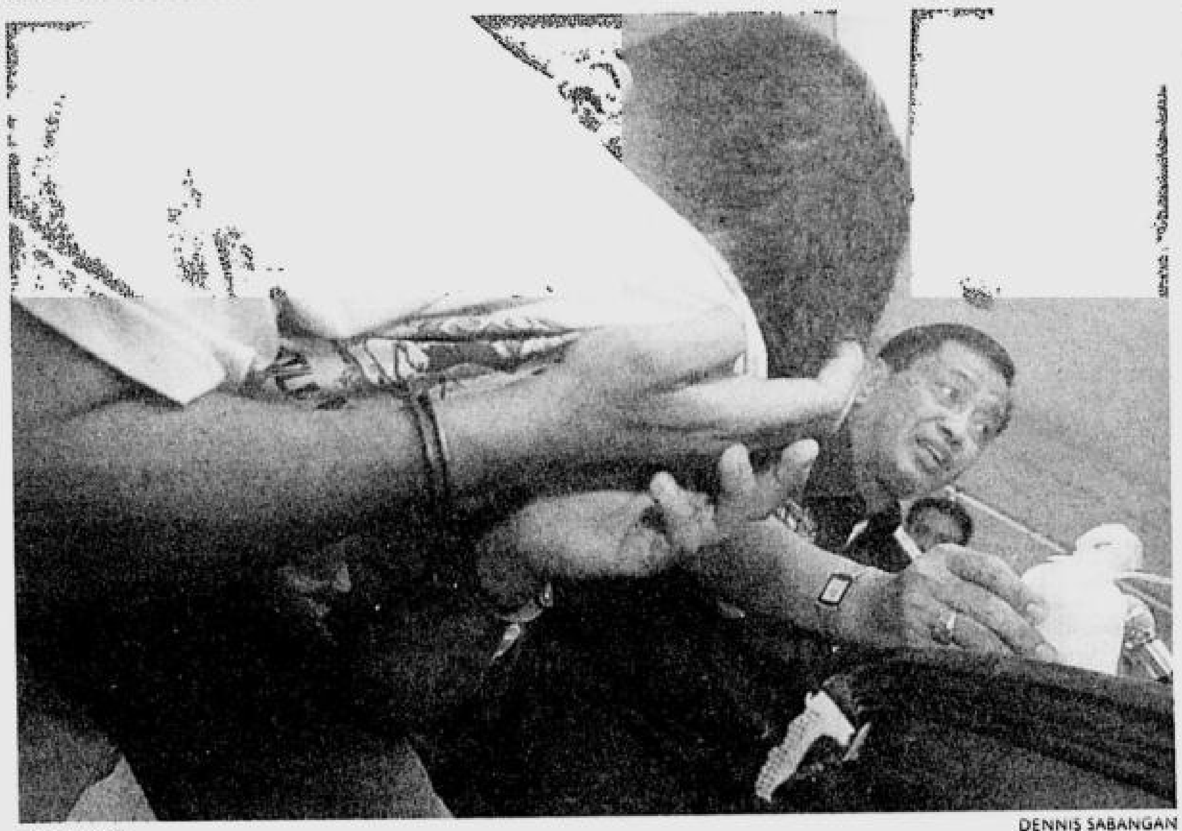
He said Nagtahan Terminals was put up upon invitation from the government to invest in the petroleum business in light of the oil industry deregulation. It leases tanks to at least eight small oil firms including Petrolino, Jetty, Uno Fuel, Yvette Marketing, Gulf Oil, Bal Trading and Peak Star.

"We are a vital logistical link in the distribution of petroleum products," the official said.

Dela Peña said the operation of the terminal—and the new oil firms—ensured affordable fuel prices vis-a-vis those of Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines.

Late last month, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said his department would start discussions with new oil players on taking steps to ensure the security of their product terminals.

Perez said he was hoping for a pact with the new players to find ways in exercising the same discipline and security practices that the three refiners were doing in Pandacan.


DENNIS SABANGAN

SHAME

PO2 Elmer Ramos could only hide his face in shame when he was presented to media in handcuffs after he was arrested for possession 96 grams of shabu inside the Eastern Police District station in Pasig City on Thursday.

Transfer of flood control to MMDA illegal, says solon

By Tina Santos

CALOOCAN City District II Rep. Edgar Erice has opposed the transfer of authority over flood control in Metro Manila from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to the Metro Manila Development Authority.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has effected the transfer on Wednesday, but Erice said the MOA was illegal.

He explained that the jurisdiction over flood control was given to the DPWH through the passage of a bill.

"They cannot just hand over the authority to other agencies of the government without Congress' approval," Erice said. "That's why President Macapagal-Arroyo should reconsider her decision of transferring flood mitigation responsibilities to MMDA because she'll be bypassing Congress."

Erice said that the President's decision was premature, adding that the MMDA lacks people who have technical know-how and expertise to solve flooding in Metro Manila.

He said that the agency should have been provided first with necessary funding and facilities before it could take over flood control.

"I believe MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando is capable," Erice said. "He has done a lot to improve Marikina and I believe he can do the same to Metro Manila, but without the necessary facilities and authority, (it) would be unfair to him."

In an earlier report, DPWH Secretary Simeon Datumanong said the transfer, which was made formal on Tuesday, covers all relevant programs, projects and activities, as well as personnel, equipment and funds covering existing flood control projects.

Datumanong said that his explanation would somehow enlighten some lawmakers who are opposed to the transfer because of the MMDA's lack of technical personnel and equipment.

Erice said that instead of taking authority over flood control programs, the MMDA should instead concentrate on garbage collection and disposal.

"If MMDA will be able to collect and dispose (of) Metro Manila's trash, then they have resolved 50 percent of the flood problem considering that one of the major factors in flooding is the garbage deposit in waterways."

The transfer of jurisdiction over flood control in Metro Manila from the DPWH to the MMDA has earned mixed reactions from local government officials of the northern part of the metropolis, particularly the Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela area.

Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, Malabon City Mayor Amado Vicencio, Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco and Valenzuela City Mayor Emmanuel Carlos earlier vowed to support the President's decision. They said that the DPWH failed in solving the perennial flood problem in Metro Manila, particularly in the Camanava area, which is greatly affected during rainy season and high tide in Manila Bay.

Law sets prompt destruction of seized drugs

THE NEW Dangerous Drugs Act has imposed strict rules on the proper safekeeping and prompt destruction of illegal drugs seized by authorities, according to Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda.

The pilferage or theft of confiscated illegal drugs while in the custody of authorities has become a growing problem, said Legarda, an official of the Citizens DrugWatch Foundation.

She said that under the new law, the apprehending law enforcement team that has initial custody of the drugs shall immediately conduct an inventory of the seized substance in the presence of the suspect or a representative, any elected official, and members of the media and the Department of Justice.

Within 24 hours after the drugs had been confiscated, the drugs must be turned over to the forensic laboratory of the newly created Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) for qualitative and quantitative examination. She said the examiner would then issue a certification of the laboratory results within 24 hours after receipt of the drugs.

After the filing of the criminal case in court, the trial judge will inspect the seized drugs within 72 hours.

Within the next 24 hours, the PDEA will proceed to destroy the seized drugs in the presence of the accused or a representative, any elected official, members of media and the civil society, and representatives from the DOJ. Only a sample of the drugs will be kept as evidence in court. After judgement had been passed, the sample will be destroyed within 24 hours.

New Edsa traffic scheme

By Leila Salaverria

STARTING TODAY, a new traffic scheme will greet motorists plying the Edsa-North Avenue and Edsa-West Avenue routes.

Crossing Edsa from North Avenue to West Avenue, and vice-versa, would not be allowed under the new scheme, according to Traffic Operations Center Director Ernesto Camarillo of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

Instead, vehicles on North Avenue bound for West Avenue or the southbound lane of Edsa would have to traverse the northbound lane of Edsa and take a U-turn in front of the Quezon City Academy, which is after the SM City Annex.

Vehicles on West Avenue going to North Avenue and the northbound lane of Edsa would have to make a U-turn in front of the MRT station.

Directional signs have been put up on the affected areas, and the MMDA is urging all motorists to follow the new rules. Camarillo said that initially, violators would not be fined.

Effective Monday, private vehicle owners could take a break from traffic-prone Roxas Boulevard and use the new Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, which runs parallel to Roxas Blvd.

The new roadway would be open to light private vehicles.

From Manila, the new roadway can be reached by turning right on the Buendia extension and turning left on the road before the Bay Boulevard. For those coming from the MIA road, instead of turning right on Roxas Boulevard, they can go straight ahead and turn right on the next intersection.

Vehicles on Roxas Boulevard would also be disallowed from crossing the Roxas Boulevard and Edsa extension intersection.

Those coming from the south who wish to go forward must turn right at the Edsa extension, make a U-turn near F.B. Harrison, go straight ahead and turn right on Roxas Boulevard. Those coming from Manila must turn right at the Edsa extension and make a U-turn at the PEA rotunda in front of SM before proceeding to Roxas Boulevard.

Also, motorists on the Edsa extension would not be allowed to turn left on Roxas Boulevard. Instead, they must cross Roxas Boulevard and head straight to the PEA rotunda, make a U-turn and proceed to Roxas Boulevard.

Earlier, the MMDA had imposed a no-left turn policy on the Kamias-Kamuning, Timog-East Avenue, Santolan-Boni Serrano intersections along Edsa.

Residents denounce MOA on Pangarap settlement

By Tina Santos

THE long-standing dispute between residents of Pangarap Village in Caloocan City and businessman Gregorio Araneta III over the 156-hectare property is far from over.

The residents yesterday denounced the Memorandum of Agreement between Araneta's Carmel Development Inc. and various government agencies to turn 80 hectares of the property into a relocation site for the affected families.

The MOA was just one of the strategies of Araneta to appease the resisting residents, according to Ronnie Mallari, researcher of the Concerned-Citizens of Pangarap, the umbrella organization of various homeowners' associations in Pangarap Village.

Mallari said they were not consulted about the relocation plan.

"That plan would definitely not prosper," Mallari said. "We believe it's just another false promise to pacify us." He said that Housing and Urban Poor Development Coordinating Council chair Mike Defensor even admitted that an on-site relocation project was not designed for the Pangarap Village residents when they met with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang on June 27.

Mallari also said there had been a lot of instances when the CDI failed to comply with their memorandum of agreement.

He cited the 1997 MOA regarding the entry of construction materials for house repairs in the contested property. He said that they had agreed to secure permits from the CDI security before they could bring in the construction materials, but they were still stopped from doing so. Mallari added that the security guards also extorted money from them.

Some 30,000 families living on the disputed property are still counting on the reversion case to be filed by the Office of the Solicitor General. They said the three titles of the CDI are fake and anomalous.

But in an earlier interview, CDI chief executive officer Rene Faustino insisted the Pangarap residents were among the beneficiaries of the on-site and off-site relocation plans, which was formalized in the MOA signed by Araneta, Defensor and National Housing Authority general manager Eduardo Pamintuan.

Faustino expressed hope that with the program, the residents would come to terms with CDI and end the dispute.

But he said CDI would continue to tear down houses and properties of unscrupulous individuals who refused to recognize CDI as the rightful owner of the property.

DOTC favors relocation of Edsa bus terminals

"THERE is a need to relocate terminals of bus companies from major highways and crowded places to prevent them from contributing to the traffic congestion on busy intersections."

This was the assessment yesterday of Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza, as he directed his regional directors to submit situation reports and recommendations on the operations of passenger buses in their areas.

In Metro Manila, Mendoza is coordinating with the Metro Manila Development Authority in solving the perennial traffic congestion in the metropolis.

The MMDA and DOTC have recommended a restudy of the location and parking of provincial buses on EDSA, from Caloocan to Pasay City, to help solve the traffic problem.

There are more than fifty provincial and city bus terminals on Edsa, despite a 1994 agreement between the bus companies, the MMDA and the DOTC-attached Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board, limiting Edsa bus terminals to 30.

In most cases, Mendoza said, the size of the terminals is not adequate to accommodate their fleet of buses, forcing most of them to park their vehicles on Edsa and contributing to traffic congestion.

According to the Memorandum of Agreement reached at the 1994 Traffic Summit, operators of bus terminals must first comply with the prescribed requirements before they can secure permits from local government executives, Mendoza said.

Comelec upholds Zialcita win in Parañaque

THE COMMISSION on Elections has unanimously dismissed the consolidated case filed by losing congressional candidates against Parañaque Representative Eduardo C. Zialcita "for lack of merit."

In an en bank resolution shortly before Chair Alfredo L. Benipayo resigned from his post, the Comelec noted that the case "suffers from major legal infirmities fatal to the petitioners' cause."

The petitioners want the Comelec to declare a failure of elections in Parañaque due to alleged massive fraud consisting of massive disenfranchisement of voters, proliferation of flying voters, tampering of election returns, and attempted pilferage of counted official ballots.

"Unfortunately, none of these instances constitute a ground for a declaration of failure of elections," says Benipayo.

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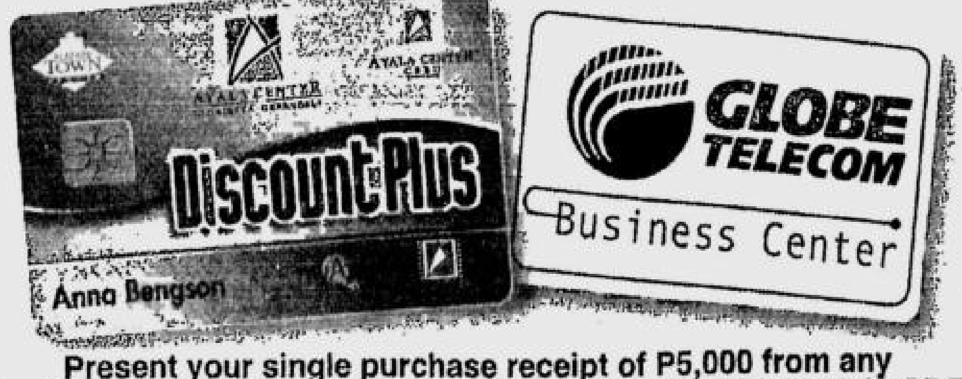

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Poll officials name Manila 'hot spots'

By Jerome Aning

ELECTION officials in Manila identified seven "hot spots" in the city which the police will be watching during the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Monday.

Still, Mayor Lito Atienza said he expects generally peaceful and orderly elections in the city's 897 barangays.

"There may be some hotly contested posts in some barangays but these are part of the nature of barangay elections," the mayor told reporters in a news conference.

Atienza said that even if the race were tight, candidates are generally cordial because they know each other personally.

"This is the why the losing candidates gracefully accept defeat and differences are amicably settled," he said.

Three of the six election officers in charge of the city's sixth district identified seven barangay "hot spots": barangays 60, 81, 129 and 131 in Tondo, and barangays 383, 384 and 648 in the Quiapo-San Miguel Islamic Center.

Rodolfo Melon, Aniceta Laceda and Francisco Rosal Jr.—election officers of the first, third and sixth districts, respectively—said they expect elections in the seven barangay to be hotly contested.

Positions in those areas are contested by feuding relatives or, in case of the Islamic Center barangays, by members of rival tribes and clans in Mindanao, they said.

Laceda recalled that during the last barangay elections, some teachers acting as election inspectors and canvassers had to be escorted by soldiers when supporters of various candidates nearly clashed.

Laceda, Rosal and Melon said they expect members of the Western Police District to be assigned to the "hot spots" to keep order.

The National Capital Regional Police Office earlier identified eight places in Manila as "areas of concern" because these are densely populated or crime-prone.

The areas include the barangays along the Philippine National Railroad tracks in Sta. Mesa, and those in some parts of Punta, Sta. Ana.

Marked "areas of concern" in Tondo were Barangay 20, the barangays found in Magsaysay Village and Isla Puting Bato, and those along Kagitingan and Capulong streets, and Radial Road 10.

The election officials, however, said they expect a lighter load on Monday because there are few SK candidates and voters.

The INQUIRER learned that 8,289 people will be running for SK chair and kagawad in Manila, compared to the 18,1999 people running for barangay chair and kagawad.

Rosal said that in his district, 16 barangays had no candidates running for either chair or kagawad. Fifth district election officer Ma. Lea Alarkon said there are "a few" barangays in the same situation in her area of jurisdiction.

In the third district, Laceda said Barangay 290 has no candidate but has one registered voter.

The election officers also said there are many barangays where there is only one candidate for chair.

Atienza described the week-long barangay election campaign in Manila as "generally cordial." He attributed this to what he calls "a shift in the orientation of the barangays."

"Since 1988, the city government has encouraged the barangays to be less political and more development-oriented," he said.

Mandaluyong's Abalos speaks in mayors' forum in Bangkok

THE ASIAN Development Bank has again invited Mandaluyong City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. to be a resource speaker in the 4th Asian Mayor's Forum in Bangkok, Thailand.

Dieter Bucher, ADB senior capacity building specialist, said Abalos was again invited due to his "substantial work in effective urban management, particularly in the context of poverty reduction and social development."

Bucher said Abalos was asked to prepare a presentation on how Mandaluyong City fights poverty and contributes to social development.

This is the fifth time that the ADB asked Abalos to speak on poverty alleviation, social development and environmental concerns.

During the program, Abalos will meet with other local executives from different Asian countries and discus with them the tools, techniques and policies in the management of housing, environmental management, health, education, income-generating opportunities and access to credit.

Abalos said the invitation is an honor to the Mandaluyong City government and a testament to the progress its people have achieved since 1986.

Meanwhile, the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission honored Mandaluyong for being the fist local government unit to clear the riverbank and to ease the misery of the people living there.

The riverbank of Mandaluyong was cleared and rehabilitated under the city government's river rehabilitation program, which is the first of its kind in the Philippines.

Hope for COPD sufferers

IT IS less known than asthma but COPD is far more prevalent, particularly in crowded places like Metro Manila.

World Health Organization studies show that 600 million people suffer from COPD, although most remain undiagnosed.

Recent statistics also show that COPD kills 2.74 million people each year throughout the world, and if the rate continues to rise, COPD will be the world's third leading cause of death by 2020.

COPD is chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, more popularly known as emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

Two pharmaceutical firms, Boehringer Ingelheim and Pfizer, recently introduced Tiotropium, a novel drug that will provide remedy to patients suffering from COPD.

Discovered and developed by Boehringer Ingelheim, the Philippines is the first country in the Asia Pacific region and second in the world, after The Netherlands, to introduce tiotropium. It was evaluated for safety and efficacy in more than 1,300 patients with COPD.

Tiotropium will be marketed under the name Spiriva.

PROF. Klaus Rabe, head of Leiden University Medical Center pulmonology department, demonstrates the use of the Handihaler.

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Celebrities in Haribon storytelling

CELEBRITIES will grace the storytelling sessions of Haribon Foundation's biodiversity exhibit this month and next.

Columnist Panjee Lopez, fashion model sisters Raya Mananquil and Rissa Mananquil-Samson, VJ and model Bianca Araneta, singer Agot Isidro, children's book writer Karla Delgado and TV hosts Roderick Paulate, Julius Babao and Christine Bersola will be the featured storytellers.

Through the stories, Haribon hopes children will become more aware of what everyone needs to do to preserve the fragile ecosystem.

Children can also hone their creative craft at the exhibit's coloring corner or by playing with the numerous floor puzzles.

The sessions are scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m. on weekends at the following dates and venues: July 11-17 at the main atrium of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, and on Aug. 19-25 at the North Court of the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell.

The exhibit coincides with Haribon's 30th founding anniversary. It aims to bring the state of Philippine biodiversity much closer to people's attention.

Through the biodiversity exhibit, Haribon hopes to inspire people to become more active and knowledgeable in caring for the environment.

Haribon's biodiversity exhibit is sponsored by Apple Computer Inc., Philips Consumer Electronics, dwNU 107, Equitable PCI Bank, Cravings, BPI Foundation and Faber Castell.

The Haribon Foundation may be reached on the 4th floor of Fil-Garcia Tower at 140 Kalayaan Ave. corner Mayaman Street, Teachers Village, Diliman, Quezon City, by calling 920-7430, 436-4363 and 433-3476 or by logging on to www.haribon.org.ph.

OUTSTANDING ROTARY CLUB
The Rotary Club of Makati was named most outstanding Rotary Club during the recent Rotary International District 3830 Grand Platinum Awards. RC Makati won a total of 13 awards in different categories, including those for outstanding club performances in community service, in vocational service, and in international service. RC Makati president Jonny Carlos (second from right) won most outstanding club president. With him are (from right) his wife Millette Carlos, district governor Ernie Salas and wife Chichi Salas.

Fernando stops ...

From page A25

The traffic director said it was Fernando himself who saw the violations committed by the contractor of the C-5-Boni Serrano-Katipunan Interchange project.

Camarillo said habitual violators would face monetary and administrative sanctions, the most extreme being blacklisted by the MMDA. He said this means the erring contractors would not be able to undertake construction projects because the MMDA would not issue them the necessary permits.

Also yesterday, Fernando said in another statement that he would need presidential support to accomplish the numerous projects of the MMDA.

He said he would ask for the President's support during the joint meeting of the Regional Development Council and the Regional Peace and Order Council on July 16 at the Manila Hotel.

"I will present an honest-to-goodness situation of the metropolis and request the President to intervene especially in program areas of the MMDA that need government funding and support," he said. "We cannot do all these things without the support of the President first and foremost."

In the joint meeting, the MMDA chair will brief the President as well as Cabinet secretaries, Metro Manila congressmen and mayors, and the Metro Manila regional directors of all government line agencies on the problems besetting the metropolis and on the recommended solutions.

"It would basically be a dialogue between the Metro Manila mayors and President Macapagal-Arroyo where we will tackle various issues and concerns that need to be ad dressed," Fernando said of the meeting.

The issues he would bring up ar the removal of all illegal obstruction from sidewalks, the construction c additional bridges and completion c missing links of secondary roads, ir stallation of traffic lights at 600 inter sections, the use of railways to trans port Metro Manila trash to the south the reopening the San Mateo an Carmona sanitary landfill faciliti the transfer of flood control functio from the Department of Publ Works and Highways to the MMD the localization of some governme transactions and the implementatio of the MMDA reorganization plan.

The MMDA is mandated to ta care of urban planning, flood co trol, public order and the traff and garbage concerns of Metro M nila.

Fernando assumed the MMD post barely a month before. He an engineer and was mayor Marikina for three terms.

Marikina is hailed as one of th cleanest and most disciplined citi in Metro Manila.

Fernando was also a vice chair the MMDA in 1994-1995.

Alfie Lorenzo ...

From page A25

"Apparently, the accused Lorenzo used his column to dishonor and discredit the person of the private complainant—a malicious and offensive way of defending himself," the judge added.

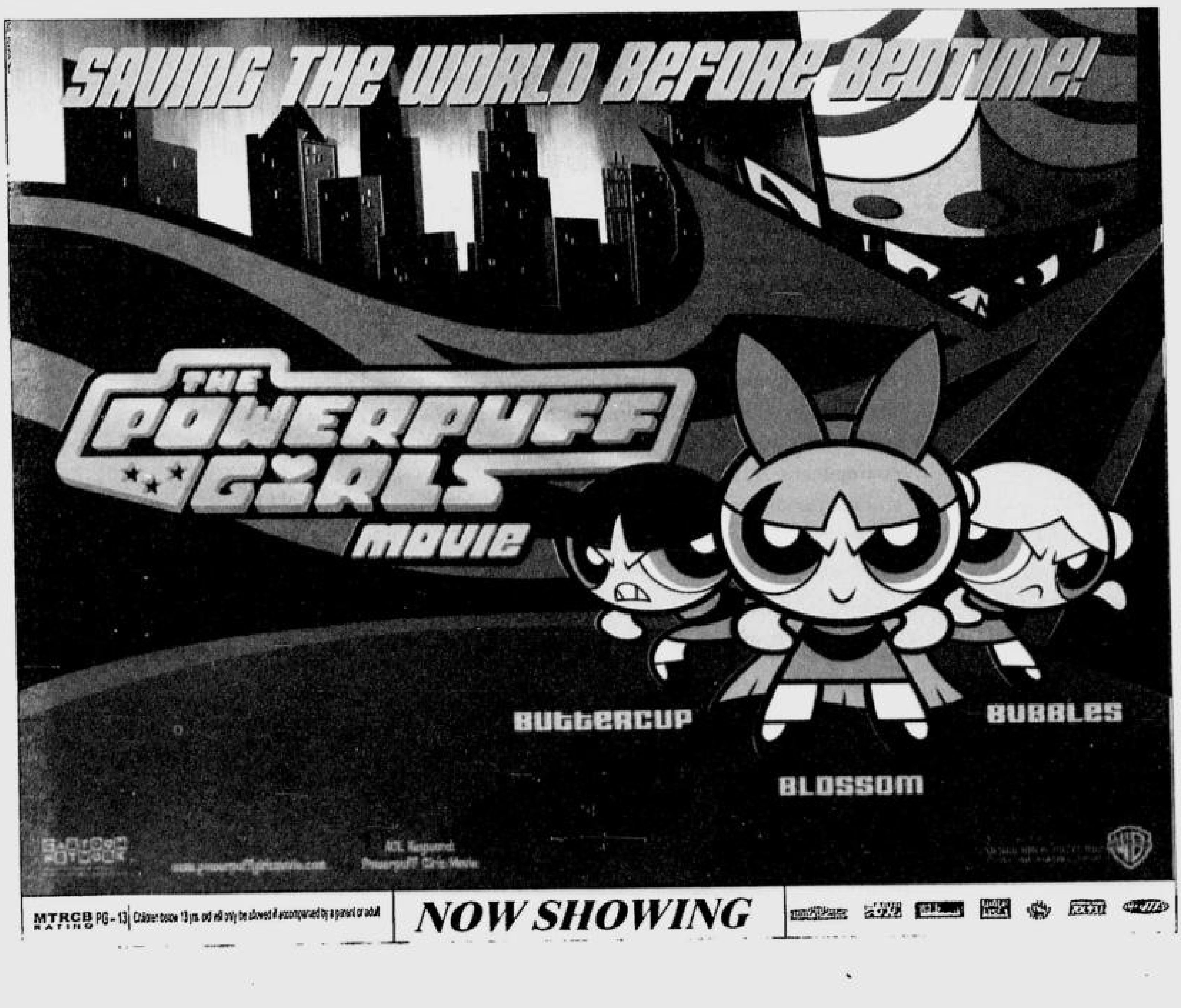
The judge also fined Lorenzo, his editor and his publisher P4,000.

Lorenzo told the Inquirer that he "merely answered back" Silva's sexual harassment statement through his column.

Lorenzo complained that the media were focusing on two criminal cases against him when in fact, out of the 17 cases filed against him, 15 had been dismissed.

"Why do you concentrate on just the two cases?" he said. "*Hindi siguro even ang* score (It doesn't seem fair)." Quijano said their lawyer Boy Gabionza has already filed a motion for reconsideration.

With Marinel Crus



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NOW SHOWING

‘I don’t like to walk,’ says 12-year-old car thief

By Philip C. Tubeza

“I DON'T like to walk. I want a joyride."

This was how a 12-year-old boy explained to Manila police who arrested him on Wednesday why he drove off with an Isuzu Elf truck (TJH-997).

The boy, who had been arrested for the same offense three times in the past but was let off because of his age, might end up in jail this time. The Manila City prosecutor has set his bail at P100,000.

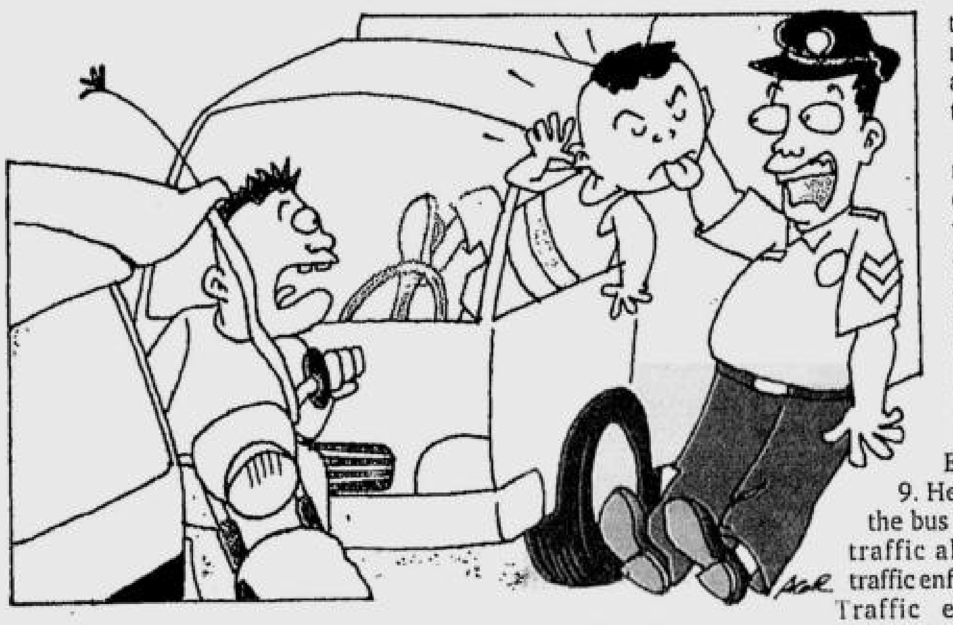
The youngster escaped from the Ahon Bata Center in Nayong Pilipino in Parañaque and drove off with the Isuzu Elf truck belonging to Remigio Illescas of 2000 Jose Abad Santos, Tondo, Manila, said PO2 Arnold Buitre of the Western Police District Anti-carnap unit.

Police said the boy had been arrested in Pasig City after he figured in an accident with the truck. The boy hit a tricycle with the truck while he was driving along Carruncho Avenue in Pasig about 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Buitre said.

Pasig policemen said they were surprised to see that a boy was behind the wheel of the truck, but that he did not have the ownership documents of the truck.

Buitre said the boy took the truck using a master key that he stole from a key smith while the truck was parked at the corner of Cavite and Jose Abad Santos streets in Tondo about 8:30 p.m. on Monday.

He said the truck had been reported as stolen to Manila police, which informed the other districts to be on the lookout for it.



The boy was charged before the Manila prosecutor's office, and his bail was set at P100,000, police said.

"A case is usually set for further investigation when it involves minors," Buitre said. "But not this time. The fiscal made the decision after looking at the boy's record."

The boy first made news in December 2001 when he tried to drive off with an air-conditioned Elena Bus Liner that was parked in front of the Kamuning Police Station along Edsa. He was then 9. He was able to drive the bus through the heavy traffic along Edsa before traffic enforcers noticed him.

Traffic enforcers finally stopped him in front of the Ramon Magsaysay High School, 500 meters away from the police station.

The boy was only given a warning that time, but he pulled off the same trick later and tried to drive a bus in Taguig.

About two months ago, the boy went back to the Kamuning police station and tried to drive off with a patrol car.

Buitre said the boy had admitted to doing these things.

"Sayang, mabait 'yung bata (It's such a waste, he's a good kid). He said he just wanted to drive."

The boy apparently learned how to drive by watching jeepney drivers do it, police said.

"Whenever he rides a jeepney, he would sit in the front passenger seat," Buitre said.

Authorities sent back the boy to the Ahon Bata Center, pending the results of the cases filed against him.

Vicencio refuses to budge

VICENCIO

MALABON Mayor Amado Vicencio, whom the Sandiganbayan last week ordered suspended together with four others, is not stepping down just yet, saying only the newspapers have suspended him.

"As far as we're concerned, only the newspapers have suspended us," said a defiant Vicencio, adding that the Sandiganbayan's ruling was premature.

In a resolution, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, the court also ordered the Department of Interior and Local Government to implement the order.

Vicencio said in a statement that his lawyers have already filed a motion to quash the suspension order before the same court. This move is expected to stay the implementation of the 90-day suspension order until the court issues another resolution.

However, sources said the Sandiganbayan was unable to serve the order on Thursday because of the flooding in Malabon, and "nobody from the city hall wanted to receive the Sandigan copy."

But it was confirmed that the DILG'received its copy of the resolution only last Thursday.

Vicencio said the Sandiganbayan order was unfortunate since the suspension ruling was issued when the Ombudsman has not resolved a petition for reinvestigation of the case that he and his co-respondents had filed.

He said they objected to their arraignment, where they pleaded "not guilty," precisely because of the pending petition to re-investigate the case. However, he said the Sandiganbayan insisted that they be arraigned "without prejudice" to whatever the Ombudsman may later decide to do in the reinvestigation.

Associate Justice Edilberto Sandoval, chair of the Sandiganbayan second division, issued the suspension order on July 4. Associate Justice Godofredo Legaspi and Raoul Victorino concurred with the decision.

Vicencio said he has not received a copy suspending him together with Ma. Lida Sarmiento, Pio Dadula,

Councilor Lauro Borja and city treasurer Ernesto Pabustan, all members of the pre-qualification, bids and awards committee (PBAC).

The case, which was filed by opposition Councilors Edilberto Torres and Chiqui Roque-Villaroel, stemmed from the allegedly anomalous awarding of the contract for the construction of the P122-million new city hall in Barangay Catmon three years ago. The city hall project had been shelved. *Tina Santos*

Run over in Antipolo

By Nelson Forte Flores

AN UNIDENTIFIED male died after he was run over by a speeding vehicle early yesterday morning in Antipolo City.

Police said the fatality, which was described to be about 30 years old, medium built, about 5'8" tall and sporting a white sidewall haircut, died on the spot due to multiple head injuries. They added that the victim is wearing a gray colored short and a T-shirt with green stripes.

SPO2 Jesus Nueva, Antipolo City police station desk officer, said the incident happened about 12:30 a.m. in a dimly lighted portion of Marcos Highway in barangay Mayamot while the victim was crossing the street. He added that the speeding vehicle continue running even after it already run over the victim.

Nueva asked the public to help investigators track down the driver of the speeding vehicle even as he appealed to the said driver to surrender and face the consequences of his recklessness. He said they already have some leads but refused to elaborate.

"Surrendering is the manly thing to do," Nueva stressed.

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1998, 1999, 2001

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Metro Manila Radio:

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Metro Manila Radio:

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2000, 2001

★ Best Drama Program,

Metro Manila Radio:

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RX 93.1 official website

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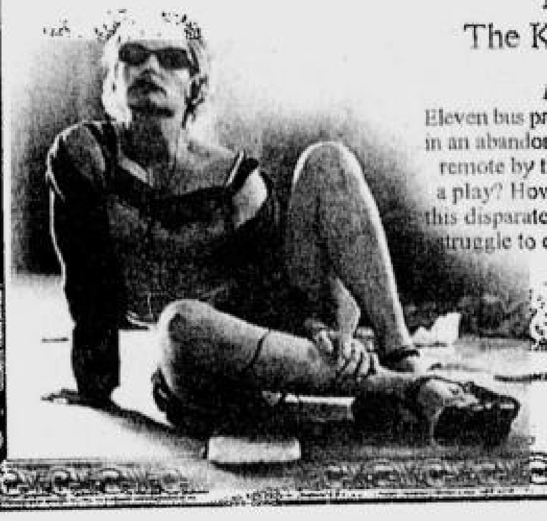
AYALA CINEMAS



Discover ArtFilm Greenbelt 1

DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

NOW SHOWING

The King is Alive, July 10-16

Miles Anderson, Romane Bohringer, David Bradley & Jennifer Jason Leigh

Eleven bus passengers take shelter from the elements in an abandoned desert town. As rescue grows more remote by the day an idea emerges: why not stage a play? However, the choice of King Lear plunges this disparate group of travelers into turmoil as they struggle to overcome nature's wrath and their own mortality.

Best Actress (Leigh), 2000 Tokyo International Film Festival

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)

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METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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2 (SDDS) BAD COMPANY
3 (DTS) THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 GOLD (DTS) POWER PUFF GIRLS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) BIG FAT LIAR
6 GOLD (SDDS) MINORITY REPORT
7 GOLD (DOLBY) HIGH CRIMES
8 FOREVERMORE
9 LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
10 JUST VISITING

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3 (DTS) DRAGONFLY
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274
1 SUGAT
2 HIGH CRIMES
3 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 BAD COMPANY
2 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3 KATAWAN MO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MINORITY REPORT
5 SUGAT

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285
1 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
2 FOREVERMORE
3 MINORITY REPORT
4 HIGH CRIMES
5 SUGAT
6 POWER PUFF GIRLS
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13
1 HIGH CRIMES

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 FOREVERMORE
2 MURDER BY NUMBERS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515
1
2 BATANG MAGDALENA
3

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1
A

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1
2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) HIGH CRIME
2
3
4 SUGAT
5 SLACKERS
6 MINORITY REPORT
7 (DTS) POWER PUFF GIRLS
8 (SDDS) BAD COMPANY
9 (DOLBY) ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 SUGAT

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 FOREVERMORE
2 HIGH CRIME
3 BAD COMPANY
4 (SDDS) POWER PUFF GIRLS
5 SUGAT
6 (DOLBY) * MINORITY REPORT
7 (DTS) HIGH CRIME
8 KATAWAN MO .
9 TAMPISAW

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS)
2
3
4 FOREVERMORE
5 (SDDS) HIGH CRIME
6 SUGAT
7 (DOLBY) POWER PUFF GIRLS
8 BAD COMPANY

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2 SUGAT
3 (DTS) POWER PUFF GIRLS
4 FOREVERMORE
5 (SDDS) HIGH CRIME

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 SUGAT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 SUGAT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson SUGAT
Lords NAGIINIT NA HAYOP
Jennet

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 FOREVERMORE
2 HIGH CRIME
3 MINORITY REPORT

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
3

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) MINORITY REPORT
2 FOREVERMORE
3 SUGAT
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619
1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite
1 HINOG SA PILIT
2 RESERVE

Berma
TEL. 8792030 / 8792029
1 SUGAT
2 MINORITY REPORT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
2 FOREVERMORE
3 (DTS) JUST VISITING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 JUST VISITING
2 (DTS) FOREVERMORE
3 (DOLBY) MINORITY REPORT
4 SLACKERS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 FOREVERMORE
2 (DOLBY) JUST VISITING
3 (DTS) MINORITY REPORT
4 SLACKERS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 FOREVERMORE
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 (DOLBY) THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) HIGH CRIME
2 LAGING SARIWA ANG SUGAT
3 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
4 (DTS) SUGAT

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) MINORITY REPORT
2 SLACKERS
3 (DTS) JUST VISITING
4 FOREVERMORE
5 KATAWAN MO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 FOREVERMORE
2 MINORITY REPORT
3 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558
1 FOREVERMORE
2 MINORITY REPORT
3 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 TAMPISAW
2 FOREVERMORE
3 MINORITY REPORT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 JIHAD WARRIOR
2 LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 PANIC ROOM

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) DEATH TO SMOOCHY
2 JUST VISITING
3 (DTS) LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
4 MONSTER'S BALL

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THX
CMG INTERNATIONAL

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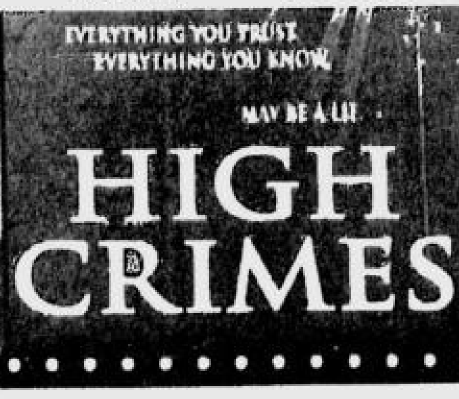

EVERYTHING YOU TRUST.
EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.
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HIGH CRIMES

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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

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2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 HIGH CRIMES
4 POWERPUIFF GIRLS
5 MINORITY REPORT
6 FOREVERMORE
7 SUGAT
8 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

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7149522 -7161416
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2 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3 POWERPUFF GIRLS
4 SLACKERS
5 HIGH CRIMES
6 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
7 MINORITY REPORT
8 SUM OF ALL FEARS
9 BAD COMPANY
10 JUST VISITING

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
2 JUST VISITING
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 BAD COMPANY
5 POWERPUFF GIRLS
6 FOREVERMORE
7 MINORITY REPORT
8 HIGH CRIMES
9 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
10 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
11 SLACKERS
12 KATAWAN MO . . .

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 HIGH CRIMES
2 BAD COMPANY
3 BIG FAT LIAR
4 POWERPUFF GIRLS
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 MINORITY REPORT
7 JUST VISITING
8 SLACKERS
9 FOREVERMORE
10 SUGAT
11 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
12 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 JUST VISITING
2 POWERPUFF GIRLS
3 MINORITY REPORT
4 HIGH CRIMES
5 BIG FAT LIAR
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS
7 SLACKERS
8 SUGAT
9 FOREVERMORE
10 BAD COMPANY
11 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
12 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9205452
1 BAD COMPANY
2 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3 SUGAT
4 FOREVERMORE
5 BIG FAT LIAR
6 POWERPUFF GIRLS
7 HIGH CRIMES
8 MINORITY REPORT
9 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM SOUTHMALL
8060888
1 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2 BAD COMPANY
3 POWERPUFF GIRLS
4 BIG FAT LIAR
5 SCOOBY DOO
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS
7 FOREVERMORE
8 HIGH CRIMES
9 MINORITY REPORT
10 SUGAT

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 BAD COMPANY
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
4 BENEATH LOCHNESS
5 TAMPISAW
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 FOREVERMORE
8 MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 FOREVERMORE
2 CLOSED
3 FRUIT IS SWELLING
4 BAD COMPANY
5 MINORITY REPORT
6 MONSTER'S BALL
7 CLOSED
8 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 MINORITY REPORT
2 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
3 JUST VISITING
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 TAMPISAW
6 FOREVERMORE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 FOREVERMORE
2 HIGH CRIMES
3 POWERPUFF GIRLS
4 MINORITY REPORT

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2 POWERPUFF GIRLS
3 FOREVERMORE
4 MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 BAD COMPANY
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 FOREVERMORE
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 MONSTER'S BALL
6 MINORITY REPORT

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

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2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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2 POWERPUFF GIRLS
3 HIGH CRIME
4 BIG FAT LIAR
5 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
6 MINORITY REPORT
7 FOREVERMORE
8 JUST VISITING
9 BAD COMPANY
10 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .

Ermita 536 -7809- 12
1 HIGH CRIME
2 FOREVERMORE
3 BIG FAT LIAR
4 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
5 BAD COMPANY
6 POWERPUFF GIRLS
7 MINORITY REPORT

Metro East - Marcos Hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 BAD COMPANY
2 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3 HIGH CRIME
4 FOREVERMORE
5 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
7 MINORITY REPORT
8 POWERPUFF GIRLS

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30
1 MINORITY REPORT
2 BAD COMPANY
3 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 HIGH CRIME
5 POWERPUFF GIRLS
6 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
7 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
8 FOREVERMORE

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 HIGH CRIME
2 SUGAT
3 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
4 POWERPUFF GIRLS
5 FOREVERMORE
6 MINORITY REPORT

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
1 BAD COMPANY
2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
3 DISKARTE
4 CASS & CARY
5 FOREVERMORE
6 MINORITY REPORT

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78
1 MONSTER'S BALL
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 BAD COMPANY
4 FRUIT IS SWELLING
5 IN THE BEDROOM
6 FOREVERMORE

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2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 FOREVERMORE
4 JUST VISITING
5 TAMPISAW
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Anjo Yllana aide slain in traffic shooting

AN UNIDENTIFIED motorist yesterday morning shot dead another motorist allegedly over a traffic altercation in Pasay City.

Armon Felix Bondoc, 34, chief of staff of Parañaque councilor and actor Anjo Yllana, and resident of Quirino Avenue in San Dionisio, Pa-rañaque, died of four gunshot wounds in the head and neck, according to SPO1 Nonilone Francisco.

Bondoc was driving his dark gray Mitsubishi Lancer (UDL-773) when he was shot near the corner of Gil Puyat and Taft Avenues at about 1:30 a.m., investigation showed.

While Bondoc was waiting for the traffic light to turn green, the gunman alighted from his van, approached Bondoc's car and shot him at close range. The gunman then drove his van toward Roxas Boulevard.

Bondoc died at the wheel. His car engine and headlights were still running when investigators arrived.

Authorities believe the killing was triggered by a traffic altercation. ***Christian V. Esguerra***

Collision kills 1

A 32-YEAR-OLD woman died while her overseas worker husband was seriously injured after the motorcycle they were riding collided head-on with a passenger bus early yesterday morning in Quezon City.

Susan Ramos, of Diliman, Quezon City, died instantly due to wounds she sustained in the head and different parts of the body.

Her husband George, 39, was in critical condition at the East Avenue Medical Center, police said. The impact threw him a few meters away from his motorcycle.

PO3 Venus Ormita of the Central Police District said the accident happened at about 5 a.m. along Commonwealth Avenue. The Ramoses were on their way to Edsa when their motorcycle was rammed by a LEKS Bus Line unit (TVS-626), driven by one Rodolfo Flores, 43, of San Francisco Del Monte, Bulacan.

The bus driver was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and seriously physical injuries. ***Tina Santos***

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

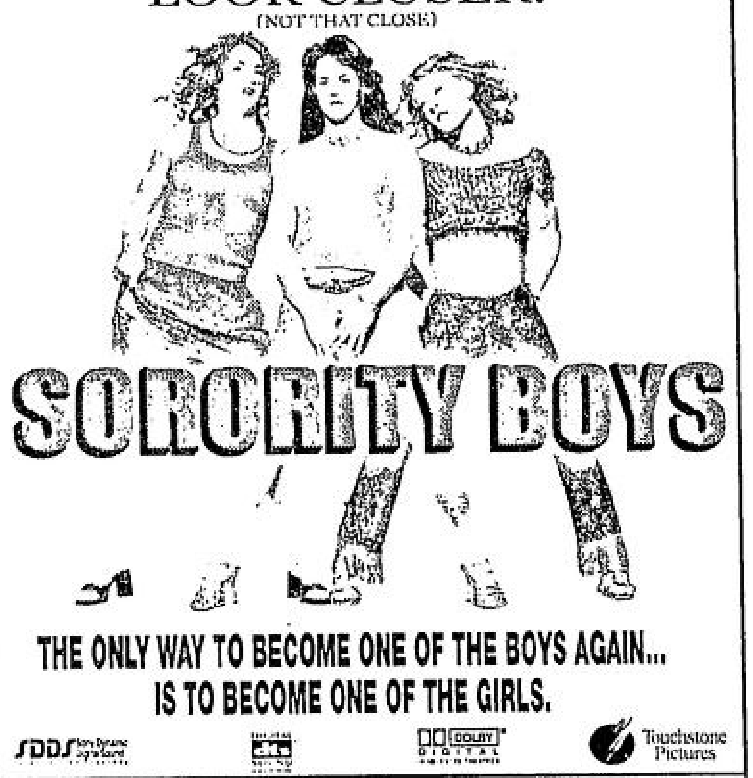
ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FOREVERMORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MINORITY REPORT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	HIGH CRIMES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BIG FAT LIAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BAD COMPANY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SUGAT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SANA TOTOO NA / SENSES
ODEON	HIGH CRIMES
ODEON-2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ROBEN	SUGAT
TANDEM-1	MAMASAN
TANDEM-2	MONSTER'S BALL
TIMES	SHOWTIME / JASON-X
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
REMAR	SUGAT
REMAR-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SUGAT
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HIGH CRIMES
CINEMA-2	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SUGAT
CINEMA-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
CINEMA-3	JUST VISITING
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-6	SLACKERS
CINEMA-7	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-8	TAMPISAW
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BIG FAT LIAR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HIGH CRIMES
CINEMA-12	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
CINEMA-14	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-15	FOREVERMORE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-2	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-3	BIG FAT LIAR
CINEMA-4	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-5	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
CINEMA-6	HIGH CRIMES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

BAD COMPANY - P 13 10:50, 1:10, 3:30 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	POWERPUFF GIRLS - P 13 11:10, 12:55, 2:40, 4:25, 6:10, 7:55, 9:40	BIG FAT LIAR - P 13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
MINORITY REPORT - P13 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN - R 18 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 6:45, 8:50	HIGH CRIMES - P 13 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10

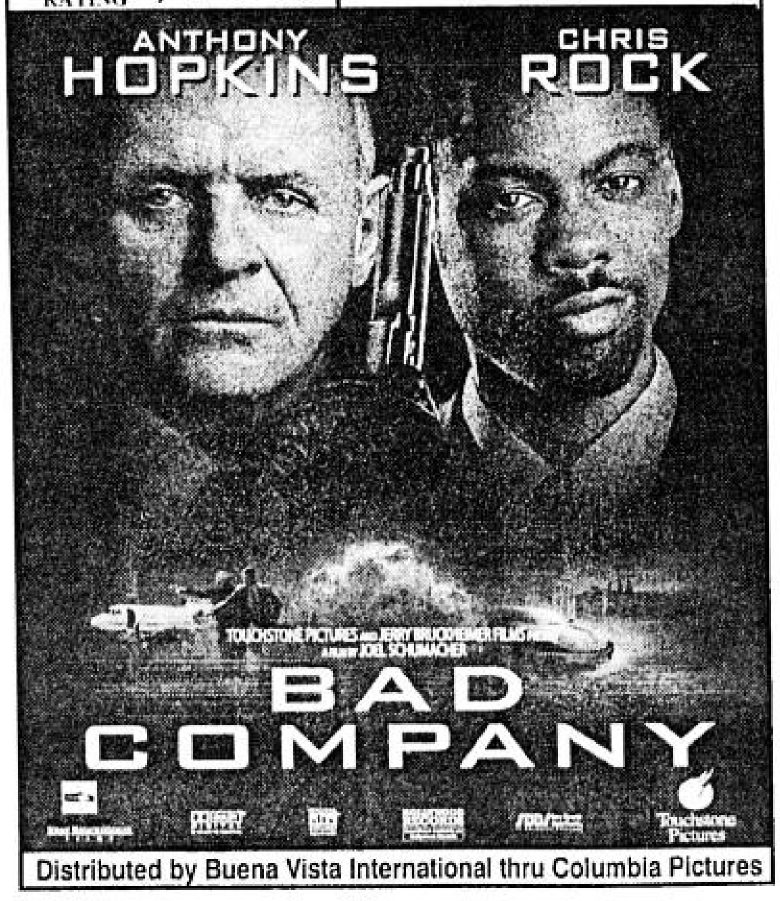
MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

A HILARIOUS COMEDY IN THE TRADITION OF "AMERICAN PIE"
OPENS JULY 24
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
LOOK CLOSER.
(NOT THAT CLOSE)


SORORITY BOYS
THE ONLY WAY TO BECOME ONE OF THE BOYS AGAIN...
IS TO BECOME ONE OF THE GIRLS.
SDDS
dts
DOLBY DIGITAL
Touchstone Pictures

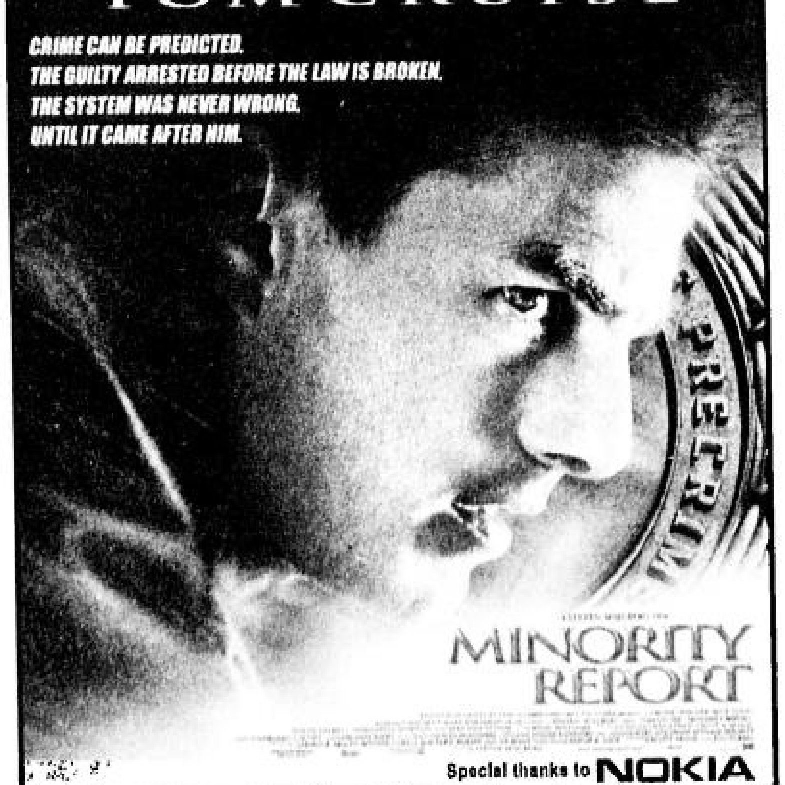
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

SECOND WEEK !!!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.


ANTHONY HOPKINS
CHRIS ROCK
TOUCHSTONE PICTURES AND JERRY BRUCKHEIMER FILMS
A FILM BY JOEL SCHUMACHER
BAD COMPANY
Touchstone Pictures

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING PG – 13 | Children below 13 yrs old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Against bringing children below 13 yrs some themes and scenes may prove too sensitive for younger audiences

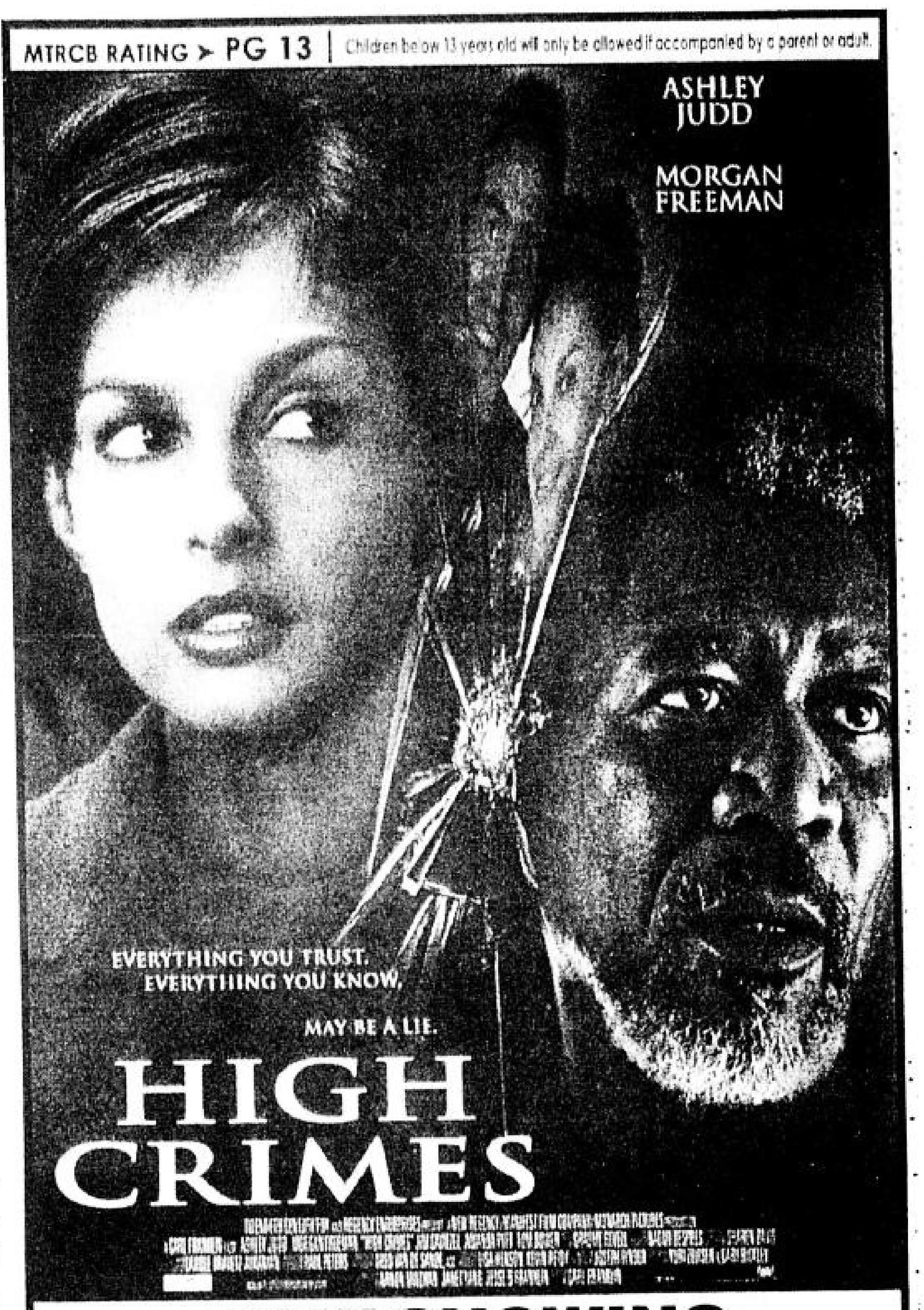

TOM CRUISE
CRIME CAN BE PREDICTED.
THE GUILTY ARRESTED BEFORE THE LAW IS BROKEN.
THE SYSTEM WAS NEVER WRONG.
UNTIL IT CAME AFTER HIM.
PRECRIME
MINORITY REPORT
Special thanks to NOKIA

NOW SHOWING

AYALA CINEMAS
Discover Art Film GREENBELT 1
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

NEXT ATTRACTION
The Yin-Yang Master,
July 24-30
Mansai Nomura, Hideaki Ito.
Hiroyuki Sanada, Kyoko Koizumi.
Eriko Emai. ***Directed by Yojiro Takita***
Two noble families compete for the emperor's favors. In their quest for power, they enlist the Yin-Yang Masters, Seimei and Doson. But an unforseen evil takes hold of Doson who now wants the emperor's throne for himself. It will be up to Seimei to stop him.

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.


ASHLEY JUDD
MORGAN FREEMAN
EVERYTHING YOU TRUST.
EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.
MAY BE A LIE.
HIGH CRIMES

NOW SHOWING

RELAX & SEE A MOVIE

Our heroes in black return in an all-new adventure with more aliens and more gadgets!
THE MEN IN BLACK ATTACK JULY 17!
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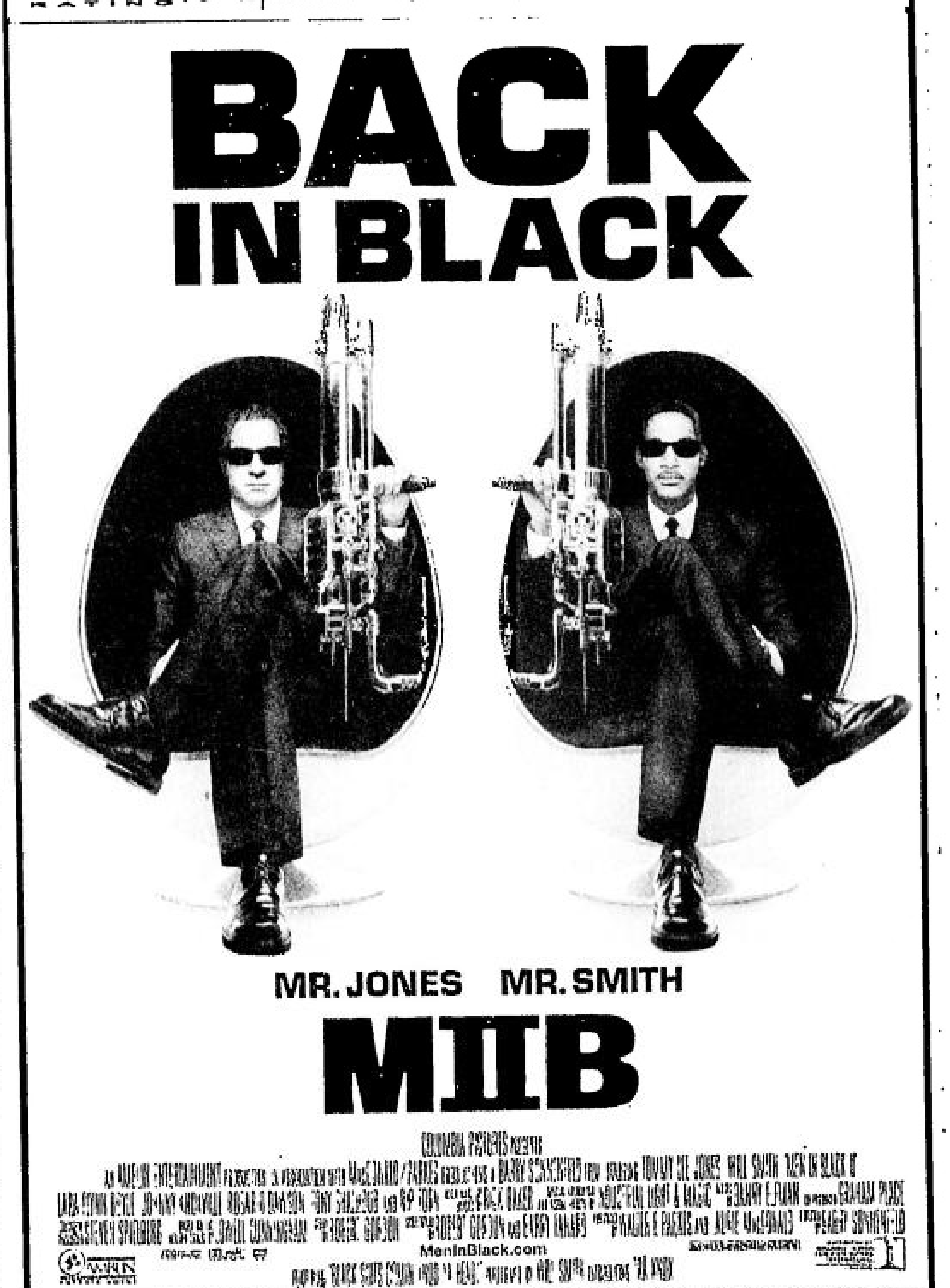
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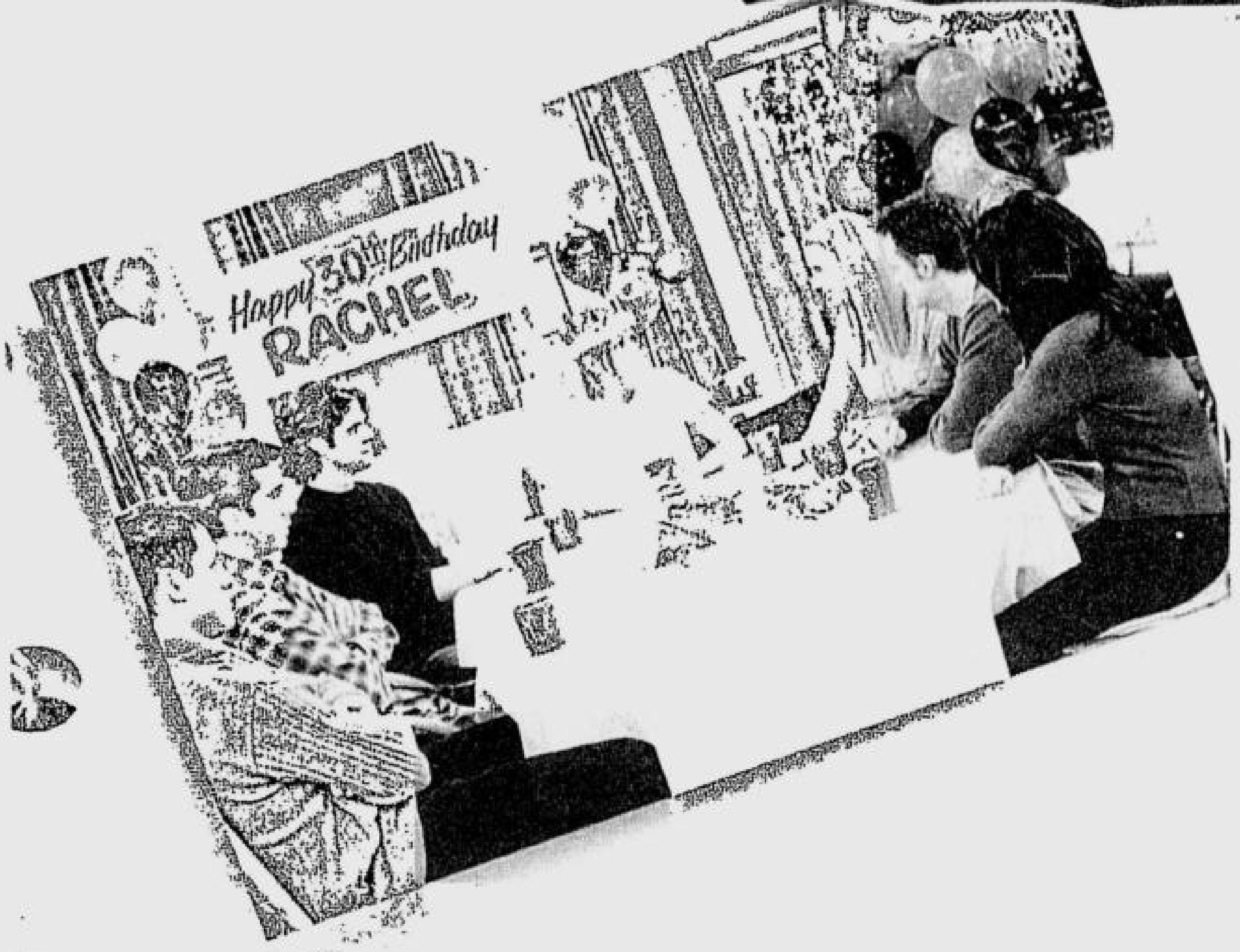
F·R·I·E·N·D·S



What does Rachel think she has to do to achieve her goals?

a. find a guy to marry
b. change jobs
c. go back to school

Simply A Friendly Trivia

Where did Chandler go when he got cold feet on his wedding day?

a. Central Perk
b. office
c. gym

What did Phoebe want to give Monica for her engagement?

a. ring
b. lingerie
c. grandma's cookie recipe

Play the FRIENDS trivia game and get a chance to win a trip to Boracay!

[illegible]

Catch FRIENDS on STAR WORLD [illegible]

STAR WORLD

SMART
Simply Amazing!

BUSINESS

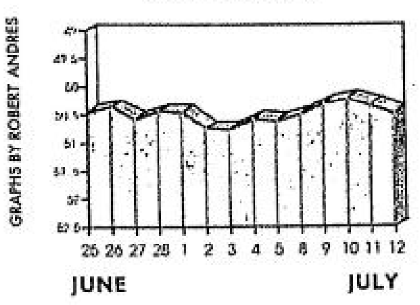
Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◆ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

DTI urges Congress to probe drug firms

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 50.495 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 12, 2002

¥ 116.72= $1

As of 5 p.m., July 12, 2002

GOLD: $316.70/317.20

per ounce Hong Kong,
July 12, 2002

STOCK MARKET

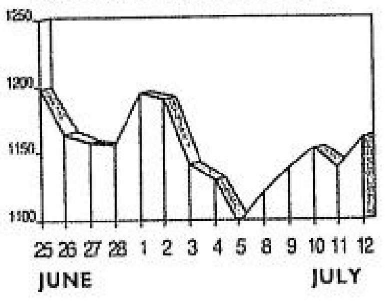
Stocks rise 2%

SHARE prices closed 2.0 percent higher yesterday on bargain hunting in stocks perceived to be oversold, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 22.55 points to 1,161.69.

However, other stocks continued to face selling pressure amid an absence of fresh leads, they said.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

"It's a technical rebound after yesterday's selling," said Enrique Santa Ana at DBS Vickers Ballas Securities, adding that most investors were buying into companies which were perceived to be debt-free.

"But the volume remains thin which means there is still a total disinterest in the market," he added.

"I don't think this volume can sustain any rally."

Volume reached 263.78 million shares worth P425.74 million from Thursday's 214.09 million shares worth P507.61 million. *AFP*

PLDT, Globe: No proposal yet from AT&T

THE COUNTRY'S two largest phone carriers said yesterday they have not received any proposal from AT&T Corp. to help its local unit expand its network.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Globe

Telecom issued separate statements after AT&T Philippines said on Wednesday it was talking to potential local partners about its planned network expansion.

"The article talks about AT&T's plans and we cannot comment on their plans," PLDT said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

"However, should the company receive any proposal to participate in the reported network expansion of AT&T, such proposal will be evaluated by the company in the usual course of business."

AT&T Philippines General Manager Edwin Lapitan told reporters the choices of network partner had narrowed down to PLDT, Globe and Smart Communications Inc., a unit of PLDT.

"Globe and AT&T are correspondent carriers for international long distance traffic and as such are involved from time to time in various discussions on network and service provisioning, new services and service improvements," mobile firm Globe said in its statement.

"These discussions, however, do not involve the formation of joint ventures or partnerships."

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has urged its critics in Congress to train their guns on the cartel-like behavior of pharmaceutical companies and drug retailers instead of criticizing the government's Parallel Drug Importation (PDI) program.

The PDI, which is being implemented by the DTI and Department of Health, has been described as a flop by a congressional oversight committee tasked to monitor the Executive branch's compliance with the pledges made by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her 2001 State of the Nation Address (Sona).

Committee chair and Albay Rep. Jose Sarte Salceda said the PDI hardly caused a ripple in the market since the volume of importation (P75 million) accounted for a measly 0.16 percent of the total turnover in the pharmaceutical industry in 1999.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said that instead of simply criticizing the program, Congress should look more closely into why pharmaceutical companies have not been able to bring down prices.

Roxas said policy makers should consistently exert efforts to break the cartel-like behavior of the leading suppliers. He said this was the only way the government can protect the welfare of consumers.

Roxas accused multinational drug firms of opportunistic pricing by keeping medicine prices in the Philippines the highest in Asia next only to Japan. "I cannot understand why in some cases, drugs are sold at prices 10 times higher than other countries in the region even though they are developed and manufactured by the same companies," Roxas said.

Roxas said Congress should investigate the pharmaceutical industry because "businesses have a social mandate to be fair to the people who patronize their products and who infuse millions of pesos of profits to drug companies annually."

Roxas defended the PDI by stressing that it was able to prove that frequently prescribed medicines could be reduced significantly.

Roxas also objected to Congress' proposal to for the government to allocate P5 billion for the import of cheap drugs from India, which the lawmakers believed would have a bigger impact on the market. "The program is not meant to supplant what is otherwise a private sector endeavor. Such resources are better utilized in other socially relevant projects like infrastructure in the countryside."

A survey conducted by the oversight committee showed that while prices of some medicines were cut, the reduction was nowhere near the 50-percent reduction set by the DTI and DOH.

ROXAS

IMF official lauds RP economic performance

By Clarissa S. Batino

A VISITING director of the International Monetary Fund yesterday lauded the country's economic performance but raised serious concerns on the government's ability to tame the fiscal deficit.

Thomas Dawson, director for external relations of the IMF, told reporters yesterday that the Philippine economy outperformed most of its Asian neighbors last year despite a turbulent global environment.

"The Philippines performed well (after the) Asian crisis but of course the country was also less affected by the crisis than its neighbors," the IMF director said.

This year, the Fund believed the economy as measured by the gross domestic product would grow by 4 percent, jibing with the 4- to 4.5-percent GDP growth estimates of the government.

The IMF's anxiety stemmed from the poor fiscal performance in the first five months alongside a rising level of non-performing loans of the banking sector, said IMF senior resident representative Sean Nolan.

"The recent slippage in the fiscal performance is worrisome as we saw a deterioration of the budget deficit. It could have been significantly worse without the savings from interest payments, which were dividends from last year's good performance," Dawson said.

The Fund officials stressed that the government had assured them that the deficit target of P130 billion this year would be met in line with the medium-term objective of bringing down the fiscal gap to zero by 2006.

Nolan stressed the importance of meeting the fiscal target alongside other macroeconomic forecasts for the country to bring down the level of its outstanding debts as a percentage of its gross national product.

Once the country's level of debt is reduced, its chances of getting an upgrade from credit-rating agencies would improve, said the IMF's resident representative.

Nolan pointed out that the deficit problem was caused by weak revenue collection that had been declining as a percentage of the country's GNP through the years.

The IMF said the Bureau of Internal Revenue's collection as a percentage of GNP had fallen from 16.3 percent in 1998 to only 12.7 percent in 2001. This ratio, it said, was the lowest in the region.

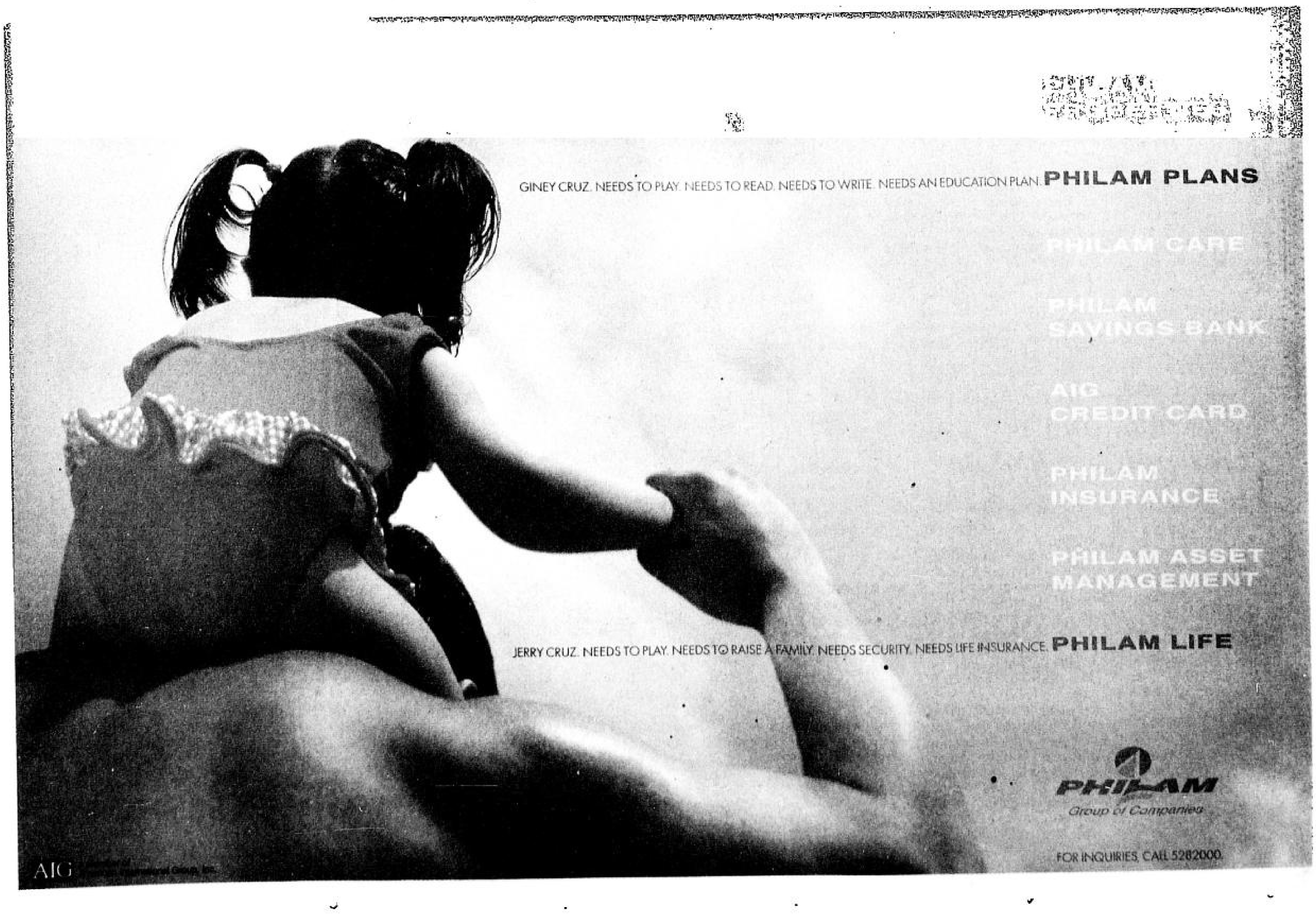
The poor collection by the internal revenue agency was being largely blamed for the government's huge budget deficit, which rose sharply to P107.54 billion as of May or 84 percent more than the same period in 2001 and already 83 percent of the target for the year.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said Thursday that the government had exceeded its budget-deficit target by about P40 billion in the first half of the year but measures to offset the slippage was already being put in place.

The government was targeting to contain the deficit to P78.26 billion in the first six months.

The Fund officials claimed that the IMF and the government agreed that the deficit target must be met and steps must be taken to correct the slippage so that the fiscal sector would be put back on track.

Camacho said that the revenue side incurred a shortfall of about P30 billion in the first half while the spending side disbursed P20 billion more than what was programmed. About P10 billion in savings from debt payments partly cushioned the slippage.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AIG

Pest contour

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THIS is discouraging news, but I really need a working toilet. The key to a successful toilet makeover is, first and foremost, pest control.

According to books on advance techniques in toilet design, to get rid of pests, you, Adong (the authors know me personally), need experts in getting rid of pests.

That is one good tip on toilet makeovers needing pest control which, apparently, Gloriaetta missed. She is getting rid of termites in this cute administration by herself.

I don't know if Gloriaetta has people who can get rid of the pests in this cute administration, and thus deflect political flak away from her. What's that—pest contour?

But I don't like it when my President has to dirty her hands in toilet politics. For that is what all this noise from Copa is all about—toilet dirty politics.

And when whatever dirty it is hits the political fan in the toilet, there's only one thing to do—go back to Edsa. Maybe there are a lot of toilets in Edsa, I don't know.

* * *

NOW Gloriaetta is saying that Copa was never in favor of her becoming the President. Is she saying that Copa does not really support this cute administration? I can believe her.

Many moons ago, I attended an affair of Copa in a big house in Forbes Park. The hostess served good food. Copa served boring speeches, one of them in French.

From what I gathered, some members of Copa did not really like this cute administration, because Gloriaetta did not even put them in good positions.

Thus, even at that time, when Gloriaetta barely warmed her seat in the Palace, the group was already endorsing another candidate for 2004.

I'm sure that gatherings like those do not escape Gloriaetta. Yet the group even professed to be on the side of this cute administration.

Gloriaetta must have figured out that she had to get rid of the pests, and nobody could blame her. Others would not have waited this long.

What I cannot understand is, why Gloriaetta must do the political dirty work herself. Maybe it's because the dirty players in politics are all in Copa. Oops.

* * *

HER supposed allies, it seems, want Gloriaetta to draw a permanent line between her and her . . . well, "enemies." Who are they?

I don't know if the so-called civil society has a list of who are supposed to be this cute administration's permanent enemies. I only know they must have some criteria.

For example, if the person is not a "hanger-on" in this cute administration, he must be the enemy. Is that it?

If so, definitely, since Sen. Blas Ople is not a hanger-on in this cute administration, since he is an elected official, obviously he is an enemy of Gloriaetta.

But then Ka Blas says, "I am not applying for a job," meaning, as foreign affairs secretary. As a matter of fact, Gloriaetta says she will occupy the post herself.

Thus, the so-called civil society cannot understand why Gloriaetta sleeps with the enemy who is not even applying for a job which will actually go to Gloriaetta herself.

* * *

NOW I want to quote Ka Blas: "It seems the President is under seige from quarters professing their allegiance but actually exerting pressure for their own ends."

There, you see, it's all politics. "Termite" may be a funny word, neither mean nor harsh, even quite figurative, but I think this is not funny anymore.

Finally, billions of dollars are getting back to Asia from the United States. They are the money which flew away as a result of the 1997 asian financial crisis.

Fund mangers were worried then about corporate governance in Asia. They had one complaint. In Asia, corporate governance did not exist.

In the United States, moreover, was the government's strong dollar policy. This is always good for portfolio investments. Well, less politics also helps, of course!

* * *

ANYWAY, if you invest dollars here, and the peso devalues, your investment may gain in peso terms, but you still lose when you convert it into dollars later.

Weak currency was not a problem in the United States for a long time. Thus the strong dollar policy of the US government was like a money magnet.

Lately, however, scandals after scandals erupted in the United States, involving big corporations. What was it again they said about corporate governance in Asia?

A good part of the portfolio investment is getting back to asia. This country, unfortunately, is yet to get even just a sprinkle of it. We just have too much politics.

Yet the genuises who pretend to be allies of Gloriaetta are saying, in effect, that she should play more politics. This is one time I hope the President is deaf.

* * *

ANYBODY who wants to serve the public always choose only these three government outfits: the BIR, the customs bureau, and either the BIR or the customs bureau.

And the reason is obvious. It's first thing that comes to mind when you hear BIR and Bureau of Customs—bigtime rackets!

Now the business sector is asking for an amnesty program in customs. They say some cases are just rotting in customs for the past 10 to 15 years.

They are the piggybanks of crooked customs personnel. The cases are the source of money for GRO canvassing in some karaoke bars.

Under the PCCI proposal, the amnesty can even give the government some P2 billion in additional revenues.

* * *

YOU know me, I'm not hot for amnesty of any kind. Frankly, I'd rather date a tall young beautiful model who has no morals whatsover. Just kidding, boss.

Amnesty only encourages more cheating.The BIR has turned the grant of tax amnesty into a separate industry. The crooks don't pay tax and just wait for the amnesty.

But this customs amnesty sounds practical. For one, the big notorious smugglers don't have pending cases in customs! The real crooks have bought their way out of them.

There is a so-called going rate in customs of so many hundreds of thousands of pesos per container. It is the rate for smuggling. You know—no questions ask.

In other words, the hardcore smugglers are having all the fun. Most, if not all, of the pending cases are draining only the legitimate businesses.

They are importers of raw materials, the manufacturers, who give us a lot of jobs. I just thought that jobs were a good reason enough to give the amnesty, that's all.

ABI refocuses strategy, gives Carlsberg big push

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FOLLOWING its acrimonious break-up with Anheuser Busch, taipan Lucio Tan's Asia Brewery Inc. is poised to focus its resources on pushing the Carlsberg All-Malt beer as its flagship in the premium beer market.

Asia Brewery CEO James L. Yu expressed confidence that after dropping the Budweiser brand from its premium beer line two months ago, "Asia Brewery should now concentrate on giving Carlsberg a big push to boost its market share."

Carlsberg was Asia Brewery's first foreign brewing partner but it never really took off since it was launched in 1987.

"We think the market was not ready for a foreign brand then. Carlsberg was introduced ahead of its time but we believe that now is a good time to push the brand to Filipinos," Yu said.

Yu said Filipinos have already become more aware of the Carlsberg brand in the years since it was launched 15 years ago through advances in media and Internet. He said Budweiser's strong performance in the premium beer market showed the potential of the foreign beer brands in the country.

During its five-year licensing and marketing agreement with the world's largest beer-maker Anheuser-Busch, Yu said Budweiser was able to capture as much as half of the premium beer market on the back of Asia Brewery's aggressive advertising and promotion of the brand.

Asia Brewery spent P500 million for pushing the King of Beers in the Philippines since 1996 on top of its multimillion-peso investments for Budweiser's bottles, crates and caps.

Asia Brewery agreed to terminate its deal (set to lapse this year) with Anheuser Busch when negotiations for a renewal bogged down after the American brewer demanded for higher royalties and an annual one percent increase. Asia Brewery, which shouldered all the costs while the Americans ran the show, was furious that the Anheuser Busch rejected its compromise offer to peg the increase in royalties to the improvement in beer sales.

While premium beer accounts for only 2 percent of the entire local beer market, Yu said this segment still has a large potential for growth especially if the economy gets back on the growth path.

He said beer sales have traditionally mirrored the country's economic performance. Filipinos tend to shift to cheaper liquor drinks like Asia Brewery's Tanduay Rhum from beer when the economy gets down. But Yu expressed optimism that beer sales would bounce back with an economic rebound.

Bourse goes easy with 'done-thru' deals

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange plans to exempt broker-to-broker transactions from the proposed minimum commission rate system that seeks to boost the profitability of the battered stock brokerage industry.

PSE chair Vivian Yuchengco said broker-to-broker transactions would be exempted from the new system—that imposes a minimum of 0.25 percent for all PSE trade transactions—based on the proposal submitted by the local bourse to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Brokers believed that broker-to-broker or "done thru" transactions should not be covered by the minimum commission rule as this would defeat the purpose of shoring up industry-wide profitability.

"It's a professional courtesy. Like doctors, they get a discount when they go to another doctor," Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said.

But Yuchengco said the PSE would not allow any other exemptions aside from done-thru transactions.

"There were other petitions for exemption but we cannot accommodate all of them," she said.

A report by the PSE's strategic development committee said the introduction of a similar commission rate system in Thailand in mid-January this year had brought about positive results. It said the new scheme had immediately reversed the losses of most brokers into profitability during the first quarter of the year.

The Hong Kong stock exchange similarly observes a 0.25-percent minimum rate while the Kuala Lumpur bourse imposes a .07-percent minimum rate for trade volumes amounting to 100,000 ringgit and below, the report said.

To date, commission rates in the Philippines vary from broker to broker and are usually subject to negotiations instead of a standard system. *Doris C. Dumlao*

PSE to hold another poll on trading schedule

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE FLOOR trading and arbitrage committee (FTAC) of the Philippine Stock Exchange will conduct another survey among stockbrokers next week to determine their preferred trading hours.

This was in line with the PSE's plan to modify again the bourse's trading hours.

In the survey, stockbrokers will be given two choices: to return to half-day trading (9:30 a.m. to 12 noon) or to adopt a 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. trading slot after the morning trading, FTAC chair Eddie Gobing said in an interview yesterday.

Gobing said the board had given FTAC the go-signal to conduct the survey, which would be used as the basis in making a decision.

The PSE board deliberated extensively on FTAC's proposal to return to half-day trading during its meeting last Wednesday. To balance various interests, however, the board decided to put the matter to a vote among broker-shareholders, Gobing said.

"But it doesn't mean that we are against the extension of trading hours. We can always extend it again when the environment gets better," Gobing said.

"If the majority is in favor (of returning to half-day trading), then we should follow the majority," he said.

DISCLOSURES

METRO Pacific Corp. said it had not entered into any agreement to sell any of its shares in Bonifacio Land Corp.

The disclosure was made in reaction to a newspaper report (not in this paper) that said that a group led by PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco and president Manuel Pangilinan had acquired the majority control of BLC.

MPC senior vice president Jose G. Cervantes, in the disclosure, said the MPC management continued to focus its efforts on its debt reduction and restructuring objectives.

* * *

APEX Mining Co. Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 31, 9 a.m., at the Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig City.

* * *

Filipino Fund Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 26, 3 p.m., at Ballroom 3, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, Makati City.

* * *

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **Centro Escolar University** is set on July 30, 3:30 p.m., at the CEU Board Room, San Miguel, Manila.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. said it could not comment on the reported plan of **AT&T** for a possible joint venture with PLDT and **Smart Communications Inc.** as part of its $300-million network expansion project.

* * *

GLOBE Telecom Holdings Inc. issued a reminder to all holders of the Philippine Deposit Receipts that July 12 is the last business and trading day before the expiry date of the PDRs on July 15.

* * *

LA TONDENA Distillers Inc. bought 4,600 shares at P31 per share as part of its share repurchase program. *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, July 12, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	11,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	16.75	17	240,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	90	90	90	90	900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	47.5	46	47	176,700
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	215,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34	33	33.5	515,900
Philippine National Bank	31	31.5	31	31.5	38,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	16,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1320	1310	1320	410
Sun Life Financial Serv.	980	980	980	980	80
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.5	24	23.5	24	5,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	370,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	515	540	515	540	57,600
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	1,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	5,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	3,000
Piltel	0.31	0.34	0.31	0.33	60,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	40,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	317.5	320	310	320	128,250
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	25,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20	20.25	19.75	20.25	61,500
Manila Electric Co. B	29	29	28.5	29	506,400
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.76	2,609,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.78	32,506,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.46	2.42	2.46	567,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	60,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	7,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	40,800
RFM Corp.	0.99	1	0.99	1	130,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	27,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	47.5	47	47.5	62,100
San Miguel Corp. B	54.5	54.5	54	54	47,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	780,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.8	4,682,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.34	2.28	2.34	5,812,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	15,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	4,250,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	206,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	15.75	15.75	13.75	14.75	2,935,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.6	1.5	1.5	471,000
Medco Holdings	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.7	610,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.29	12,400,000
Music Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.18	800,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	250,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.07	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.22	0.22	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	470,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	4.5	4.5	15,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	24.25	24	24.25	860,400
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	610	620	580	580	590
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	6.1	5.7	5.9	14,446,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	190,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	11,670,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.32	2.38	2.3	2.34	2,424,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.76	110,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	170,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	100,000
SM Development Corp.	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.82	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	6	5.8	5.9	3,703,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	1,100,000
MINING					
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,900,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.0028	0.0028	85,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,218,090	38,068,150.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	120,120,240	271,208,940.00
PRO	34,173,000	115,961,460.00
Mining	23,100,000	151,500.00
OIL	85,070,000	254,100.00
GRAND TOTALS:	263,681,330	425,644,150.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	452.14	UP 2.87
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,607.04	UP 30.60
PRO	537.51	UP 16.21
Mining	1,168.52	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.23	DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index	676.99	DOWN 5.42
Composite	1,161.69	UP 22.55

NO. OF ADVANCES: 26; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 83; NO. OF TRADES: 2,359

CURRENCIES

July 12, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.011020	1.000000	50.2650
Japan	Yen	0.008651	0.008557	0.4301
United Kingdom	Pound	1.572035	1.554900	78.1570
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129623	0.128210	6.4445
Switzerland	Franc	0.681877	0.674445	33.9010
Canada	Dollar	0.663835	0.656599	33.0039
Singapore	Dollar	0.578718	0.572410	28.7722
Australia	Dollar	0.565131	0.558971	28.0967
Bahrain	Dinar	2.681894	2.652661	133.3360
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.269606	0.266667	13.4040
Brunei	Dollar	0.575915	0.569638	28.6329
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.024569	0.024301	1.2215
UAE	Dirham	0.275280	0.272279	13.6861
Korea	Won	0.000437	0.000432	0.0217
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.989100	49.7171
Argentina	Real	0.285599	0.282486	14.1992
Brazil	Real	0.357630	0.353732	17.7803
Denmark	Kroner	0.134663	0.133195	6.6950
India	Rupee	0.020756	0.020530	1.0319
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.266093	0.263193	13.2294
Mexico	New Peso	0.103940	0.102807	5.1676
New Zealand	Dollar	0.489124	0.483793	24.3179
Norway	Kroner	0.137180	0.135685	6.8202
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016867	0.016683	0.8386
South Africa	Rand	0.100312	0.099219	4.9872
Sweden	Kroner	0.107720	0.106546	5.3555
Syria	Pound	0.019669	0.019455	0.9779
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030563	0.030230	1.5195
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000784	0.000775	0.0390

Ouch! US shareholders already losing $2.4T

NEW YORK—A stock rout this year has erased $2.4 trillion in market value, representing almost one-quarter of the US gross domestic product, as waves of accounting problems, executive skullduggery and profit warnings have pounded Wall Street's confidence.

The Wilshire Total Market Index, the broadest index for the US equity market, closed at its lowest point in almost four years on Wednesday and has tumbled more than 18 percent so far this year.

The decline also represents more than Germany's gross national product of about $2 trillion.

GNP measures the dollar value of all goods and services produced in a country, plus income from abroad. US GDP, which measures the value of goods and services produced within the United States, is about $10 trillion.

But for all the doom and gloom, some see recent sharp declines as good news.

"It's going back to a more normal level. During the speculative bubble, (the Wilshire index) was (valued at) almost 2 times GDP," said Edgar Peters, chief investment officer for Panagora Asset Management, which manages $13 billion. "But it's pretty much run its course, despite all the pessimism. When that dissipates in the next few months, it will be a good buying opportunity for those who have the fortitude."

The Wilshire index measures the stock performance of all US-based companies. It had traded down 23.67, or 0.3 percent, to 8,692.38 at late afternoon on Thursday.

To find the value of stocks within the Wilshire index, multiply the index's point value by a number calculated by Wilshire Associates, which changes from time to time. The multiplier currently is 1.2.

On Wednesday, the index closed at 8,716.38, giving it a value of $10.4 trillion. That was the lowest close for the market measure since Oct. 8, 1998, when the Wilshire 5000 ended the day at 8,620.80. It also is a new low since the market peaked on March 24, 2000.

Since the Wilshire's all-time high, the market gauge has tumbled about 41 percent, reflecting a loss of nearly $7 trillion in market value.

At the end of 2001, the Wilshire index closed at 10,707.68, representing a market value of $12.8 trillion.

Reuters

Silicon Valley residents doubt return to glory

SAN JOSE, California—With corporate scandals popping up regularly and the high-tech industry still in a swoon, fewer than half the Silicon Valley consumers surveyed expect business conditions in the area to be better a year from now, according to a report being released Friday.

The quarterly Silicon Valley consumer confidence survey by researchers at San Jose State University found much less optimism in the region than previous reports indicated.

Using the same methods employed by University of Michigan researchers who generate a closely watched index of consumer confidence, the San Jose State team gave the Silicon Valley—a region just south of San Francisco known for its concentration of high-tech companies—a consumer sentiment rating of 88.1, down from 96.2 in March and 91.7 in December.

That also is below the US nationwide figure of 92.4, according to the Michigan index.

When asked to describe their optimism about business conditions in the high-tech capital a year from now, 48 percent of Silicon Valley residents said they expect things to be better. About 36 percent said they expect conditions to remain the same and 11 percent said things would get worse.

When asked about their own financial status, 38 percent said they expect to be doing better a year from now, 47 percent said they will be about the same, and 8 percent said they expect to be worse off.

"There's been a lot of positive news, but what appears to be sinking in is the bad news: accounting scandals, layoffs, recession, collapsing stock prices, these sorts of things," said Phil Trounstine, director of the Survey and Policy Research Institute at San Jose State.

Despite feeling harder hit than the rest of the United States, Silicon Valley appears to be more optimistic about a long-term turnaround.

The index of consumer expectations, which measures people's outlook about the economy over the next five years, was 90.5 in Silicon Valley, down from 100.7 in March and 95.7 in December. That is higher than the Michigan expectations index for the nation, 87.9.

The survey involved telephone interviews with 1,000 adults in Santa Clara County and parts of Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties from June 24 through June 28. It has a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points. ***AP***

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Notice is hereby given to all shareholders of **CENTRAL AZUCARERA DON PEDRO** that, in view of the change in its name to **ROXAS HOLDINGS, INC.**, the corporation has issued stock certificates bearing its new corporate name to replace its outstanding stock certificates. Shareholders may claim their new stock certificates at the **Stock Transfer Office, Unionbank of the Philippines**, 3rd Floor, SSS Building, Ayala corner Herrera Streets, Makati City, Metro Manila. The new stock certificates will be released only upon surrender of the old certificates.

You are also informed that your Board of Directors declared a cash dividend of P0.07 per share payable to all shareholders of record as of 15 July 2002. The cash dividend checks shall be released on 31 July 2002.

FLORENCIO M. MAMAUAG, JR.
Assistant Corporate Secretary

China's economy grew 7.5% in H1, think tank says

BEIJING—China's economy probably grew by 7.5 percent in the first half of 2002 compared with a year earlier, propelled past an official target by strong exports, investment and consumption, according to a top think tank.

The estimate from the State Information Center was carried in a report by the official Xinhua news agency late on Thursday and came days before statistics officials are scheduled to release figures on China's first-half economic performance.

China is aiming for growth in gross domestic product of 7 percent this year, viewing that as the minimum needed to soak up rising numbers of unemployed created as it overhauls the state sector.

The economy grew 7.3 percent in 2001, but only 6.8 percent in the final quarter of last year. It gathered steam again earlier this year, however,. expanding 7.6 percent in the first quarter.

Economists, encouraged by recent data showing strong gains in exports and foreign direct investment, say China is virtually certain to hit the 7-percent target.

An average of estimates from 10 economists polled by Reuters this month showed the economy is expected to grow by 7.6 percent this year. The estimates ranged from 7.3 percent to as high as 8.4 percent.

"The increase in investment in fixed assets is still the major driving force of the Chinese economy," Xinhua said.

Fixed asset investment rose nearly 26 percent in the first five months, with the lion's share of that coming from real estate development, earlier figures showed.

"Government investment played a major role in boosting fixed asset investment as China continued to carry out a pro-active fiscal policy this year," Xinhua said without elaborating.

Reuters

S&P sees Japan banks' sales growth as unsustainable

TOKYO—The revenue growth reported by major Japanese banks for the last fiscal year was unsustainable and will not lead to a long-term improvement in profitability, ratings agency Standard and Poor's said Friday.

"Although the financial results of the major banks at the end of March 2002 showed an increase in revenues by as much as 13 percent, this was largely due to unsustainable growth in revenue from interest rate swaps and bond trading," Takamasa Yamaoka, director of the global ratings agency, said in a report.

"These revenue sources are likely to dry up in the near future," he said.

The banks were using up valuable resources to taking advantage of favorable accounting rules to produce extra revenue, Yamaoka added.

The boost in revenues indicated attempts by the banks to raise profits to offset bad loan losses, rather than an overall positive trend in their profitability, the report said.

The report defined revenue as income from fund management, fee income and money raised from sales of bonds minus bad-loan write-offs.

For the major Japanese banks, there has been little improvement in their loan-to-deposit interest margins, a key indicator to predict trends in banks' revenues, S&P said.

The average interest rate on new loans at Japanese banks showed a moderate rise at the end of 2000, but has declined since then, hovering around 1.6 percent from March 2001 to April 2002.

AFP

intel inside
pentium 4

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Getting along with the Kadayawan sa Dabaw beat

THERE's no gainsaying that Davao City really is among the best and most competitive places in the country. It is abode to happy, contented, and diverse people who truly enjoy nature.

It is the time of the year when a plethora of waling-waling blooms abundantly and mixes well with the ambrosial durian, rambutan, mangosteen, sweet pomelo, king mandarin, mangoes and other fruits that make up a potpourri for every visitor, foreign and local.

Local folk are now preparing and anticipating for some spectacular events that they can join in either as participants or as spectators.

These are the signs that the celebration for the good harvest and prosperity God--or Allah--has bestowed is near. In no time, the Kadayawan beat will hit the streets, echoing to the valleys and the hills.

The Kadayawan Sa Davao Foundation, a private, non-profit organization, is working closely with the Davao City Government and other groups to translate this year's theme, "Kahusay, Kaharuhay Kanunay".

The theme was conceptualized to better display Davao City's enduring peace and harmony. Kahusay is a Visayan word that positively means varying degrees of completeness, peace, harmony and understanding. Opportunities for livelihood and better well-being have always been here for everyone, drawing more people elsewhere to settle here and be part of the melting pot of peace-loving Dabaweños. Amidst negative media exposure on the isolated atrocities in Mindanao, Davao City ha- kept its reputation as the island's center for commerce, trade and industry.

The 17th Kadayawan sa Dabaw Festival from Aug. 21 to 25 will be highlighted with events that reflect the ideals and objectives of the people and leaders of this city. Several festivities are worthy to be discovered by local and foreign tourists, and even by Dabaweños themeselves. Davao City, indeed, enjoys a lingering culture of peace.

Kadayawan as an indigenous-based thanksgiving and merrymaking festival have always been true to its promise to feature and capture the spirit of our Mindanao culture for everybody's enjoyment and real fun.

Some of these exciting events are the Floral Float Parade, the Indak-Indak sa Kadalanan, and the Mindanao Indigenous Dance Festival.

A beauty and personality search among Mindanao youth will also be staged, thereby promoting as well the region's fashion-related industries. The Hiyas sa Kadayawan will be the festival's queen and shall embody the ideals of the celebration.

Other must-see activities are the Bagobo horsefight, The Davao Indigenous People Festival, the Agro-Industrial Trade Fair, the Horticulture Exhibits, Davao Arts Exhibits, and a photo contest.

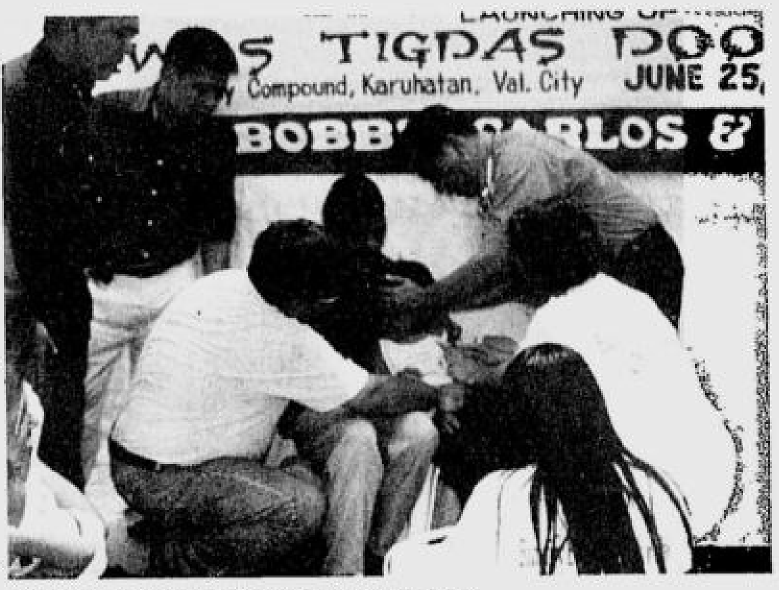
COCOPLANS INC.
TRAINING THE TRAINERS SEMINAR
WORKSHOP

COCOPLANS TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

Cocoplans, the pre-need arm of the UCPB Financial Services Group, recently held a series of Training the Trainers seminar-workshop for all its senior area managers (SAM) and area manager (AM) nationwide. Held in Manila, Cebu, and Davao, the seminar-workshop serves as an accreditation to conduct the Product Orientation Seminar for the 104 SAMs and Ams in their respective areas of operation. The newly accredited trainers are shown with Caesar T. Michelena, president (back, center) flanked by Dario B. Martinez, first vice president for marketing (right) and Rhomell Hao Cuenco, AVP-Visayas (left).

NIPPON LIFE NEW PRESIDENT

Nippon Life Philippines, one of the largest life insurers in the world, proudly introduces its new president and chief executive officer Kohei Hirose. Before assuming his position at NLP, Hirose was chief representative of the Nippon Life Japan Hong Kong Representative Office. Born is Osaka, Japan, Hirose graduated from Kyoto University with a degree in Faculty of Law and later attended the Michigan Law School. He joined Nippon Life in 1981. Nippon Life Philippines is a joint venture between the Yuchengco Group of Companies and Nippon Life Japan.



IWAS-TIGDAS IN VALENZUELA

The Valenzuela City government, led by mayor Emmanuel 'Bobit' Carlos in coordination with the Department of Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, launched recently the Iwas-Tigdas Door to Door project, aimed at reducing the incidence of measles among the children of this city. The Iwas-Tigdas campaign was held from June 25 until July 5. Shown (from left) is director David Lozada, MD of the Center for Health Development-NCR, Dr. Winston Go of the Valenzuela City Health Office, Valenzuela mayor Carlos and DOH Secretary Manuel Dayrit attending to one of the children.

The pleasure of doing business at City Garden

FOR THE cost-conscious business traveler, City Garden Hotel Makati offers an affordable and efficient way to work outside the confines of the office and in the elegant comforts of a world-class boutique hotel right at business district of the country's premier city.

Also at the heart of Makati's Commercial district, City Garden's 24-hour business center is fully equipped with the latest electronic and telecommunication facilities, complete with professional secretarial services. Its high-speed Internet and fax access lets the busy business traveler connect and communicate with anyone, anywhere in the world, not only keeping him in touch with all the latest information, but also with his home base.

Jet-setting corporate executives can be assured of hassle-free travel as City Garden's business hub features an excellent travel and tour desk, offering tours and transport services, as well as airline ticket and onward hotel reconfirmation. Sending and receiving urgent documents and packages are a breeze with City Garden's on-hand postal services that include document and parcel handling.

Who says work has to be a burden? Experience stress-free living and the pleasure of doing business at City Garden Hotel Makati, located at 7870 Makati corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati. For reservations, call 899-1111 or visit www.citygardenhotels.com.

MAMA SITA SEARCH

Mama Sita Foundation's 'Search for a Cooking Family' goes on high gear as it prepares to honor the best 'carinderia' in Metro Manila. Six finalists were chosen after a six-month search of eateries with a capitalization of less than P200,000. Noted chefs and food critics Bambi Lichauco, Ambeth Ocampo, Lourdes Labrador, Joseph Cortes and Victor Reyes will select the winner who will receive a cash prize of P30,000 during the awarding rites to be held during the MSF anniversary in August. The Soroptimist International of Mandaluyong Club, through its Grassroots Development Program, encourages the use of natural ingredients. Shown is Soroptimist Perry G. Reyes (right) visiting one of the nominees.

DUNKIN DONUTS

A VISIT TO FABELLA HOSPITAL

Actress Judy Ann Santos, one of the lead stars of the box office hit 'Magkapatid', hands out Dunkin Donuts to patients of Fabella Hospital during an outreach program conducted by Viva Films and Manila 3rd District councilor Miles Roces. The outreach program was just one of the many exciting pre-opening activities of the Manila Film Festival, of which 'Magkapatid' was a top grosser. The drama blockbuster also stars Sharon Cuneta, Christopher de Leon and Dingdong Dantes and is directed by Joel Lamangan.

BITS Clips

Bridal Business Center launch

THE BRIDAL Business Center, called "The Bridalware" will be launched July 15 at Park Avenue lower level of Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The show will feature the best bridal professionals, Auffrance Catering, Paolo Clemente, Designer's Bloom Fresh, Smart Shot Studio, Hula Balloons, The Swan Bakeshop, Streetline, All Premium Tents, Da Capo Ensamble, and more. Enjoy the beautiful bridal ambience for your wedding meetings, research the latest wedding trends in the library, surf the Net, get special discounts, free consultations, food tasting, makeovers, marriage counseling, and seminars. All wedding planners are invited to register at the exhibit and avail themselves of special privileges. Call Donair Foods Asia Inc. at 911-4852 and 438-1966.

Powerpuff Girls at Robinsons malls

WITH THE popularity of the "Powerpuff Girls" series on Cartoon Network and the upcoming release of "The Powerpuff Girls" movie, everyone's favorite superheroines are set to take over the Robinsons Malls and Robinsons Department Stores in July with a month-long extravaganza co-organized by Cartoon Network. Powerpuff Girls merchandise will be available at Robinsons Galleria Center Mall and Robinsons Place until July 31. The Powerpuff Girls will also make an appearance on the following dates: July 13 (Robinsons Place Imus Fountain Area at 1 and 5 p.m., Robinsons Department Store at 3 p.m.); July 20 (Robinsons Place Novaliches Central Atrium, RDS); July 21 (Robinsons Metro East Fountain Area, RDS); July 27 Robinsons Starmills Pampanga Fountain Area, and July 28 (Robinsons Galleria Fountain Area, RDS and Dreamscape).

Fit Kids day at Ayala Cebu

TODAY, July 13, Slimmers World International—the industry leader in fitness and in health, will hold its annual activity for kids 15 and below. This back to school fitness campaign is set at the Ayala Center Cebu Activity area and will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For inquiries and details, call (032)231-5376 and look for Em-em. Fit Kids day is presented by Vaseline Shampoo, Kelloggs Cornflakes and Disudrin. Minor sponsors include Fruitella, Poten-cee and the Waterfront Hotel. It is also supported by Rebisco biscuits, z-cards, H&Y Conjac jelly, Quaker Oats, Lipton Iced Tea, Neo Crackers, Fruit Blasts, Purefoods Beef Loaf, Goodwill Bookstore, Julie's Bakeshop, White King Flour and Nestle Ice Cream.

WORLD CUP PROMO WINNER AWARDED

HSBC and MasterCard have awarded the grand prize of the promotion conducted in support of the Philippine launch of the 2002 Fifa World Cup Limited Edition HSBC MasterCard card. The prize is a trip for two to Japan that enables the winner to watch the World Cup finals, which is being held for the first time in history. MasterCard is an official sponsor of the World Cup championship soccer and the 2002 Fifa World Cup Limited Edition HSBC MasterCard gives cardholders access to a world of discounts, privileges and perks in over 24 million MasterCard acceptance locations nationwide. Shown (from left) are Jose Rene Villa-Real, vice president and country manager, Philippines, MasterCard International, winning cardholder Mercedita Gacosta, and Peter Yeates, senior vice president and head, personal financial services, HSBC.

IT'S ABOUT 5 AT EASTMONT

Eastmont Advertising Inc., a full-service advertising agency which recently turned eight years in the industry, has new partners in its organization. Having been with the company since it started, Mabbi Vasallo-Ferreria, president and GM of EAI proudly announces the appointment of her associates as her new business partners. Ferreria states that this appointment came from the loyalty, dedication and creativity that they have shown all these past years. She believes that they will continue to steer the company to bigger successful challenges. Shown is (from left) Ringo Mendoza (senior copywriter), Tina Pentinio (media manager), Ferreria, Aida Serna (administrative officer and personnel manager) and Jake Gonzales (account supervisor).

Product FILES

Economical alternative

ENERGEN
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CONSUMERS, especially housewives, face the daily challenge of keeping up with rising prices on a fixed monthly budget. Fortunately, there are economical alternatives available in the market today. One example is the Energen cereal drink. At a retail price of P4.50 per sachet (or about half the price of the leading brand), Energen cereal drink provides an excellent source of energy and nutrition as it is packed with cereal, milk, oats and malt.

Energen cereal drink is an excellent breakfast meal in itself. It is also a healthier substitute for coffee breaks. It comes in two flavors, chocolate and vanilla, which are popular with adults and children alike. Energen cereal drink is now available in selected major supermarkets nationwide.

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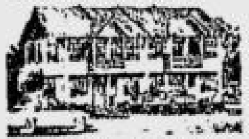

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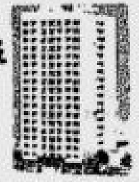
CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

FOR SALE



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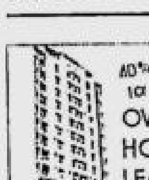

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City 2600
Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center invites all DOH-Manila accredited suppliers for Drugs and Medicines, Hospital Medical, Dental, Surgical, Laboratory, X-ray reagents and supplies to bid for the same at the Cobalt Building, BGHMC Auditorium, Baguio City.

All prospective bidders are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **July 30, 2002**, Tuesday, 2:00 PM at the same venue for any clarifications. Opening of the Bids is scheduled on **August 7, 2002**, Wednesday, at exactly 2:00 PM at the same venue.

Instruction to Bidders (BAC FORM A) and Official Bid Tender Form (BAC FORM B) can be availed of at the office of the Chief, Medical Professional Staff c/o Mrs. Ma. Teresa C. Fajardo, after payment in cash of P300.00 at the Cashier's Office at the main hospital building, from **July 23 to July 30, 2002**, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Deadline for submission of bids is on **August 7, 2002**, Wednesday, 12 noon.

The BAC shall award the contracts to suppliers with the lowest calculated and responsive bids. The BGHMC reserves the right to waive any minor deviations in the bid tender documents which do not affect the substance and validity of the bids and reserves the right to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

Inquiries may be made with the BAC Secretariat, Mrs. Ma. Teresa C. Fajardo at 442-6230.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL V. FACTORA, M.D., MHA**
Medical Center Chief
BGHMC

(PDI--July 13, 14 & 15, 2002)

National Power Corporation TransCo

RCC-RCMO-2002-07-111
July 2, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONTRACTS:

1)	Sp2002D2Lc328	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower No. 60 of La Trinidad-Mankayan 69KV Transmission Line at Brgy. Abiang, Atok, Benguet
2)	Sp2002D2Lc329	Re-gravelling of Bench 1 at Binga Hydroelectric Plant Switchyard at Binga, Itogon, Benguet
3)	Sp2002D2Lc330	Re-gravelling of Ambuklao Hydroelectric Plant Take-off Switchyard at Ambuklao, Bokod, Benguet
4)	Sp2002D3Lc331	Slope Protection of Tower No. 130 of San Manuel - Pantabangan 230KV Transmission Line at Brgy. Esperanza, Umingan, Pangasinan
5)	Sp2002D4Lc332	Concrete Pavement/Access Road/Re-gravelling of Tuguegarao Switchyard at Tuguegarao City, Cagayan
6)	Sp2002D5Lc333	Replacement of Rotten Wood Poles into Four (4) Steel Poles at Hermosa Substation, Hermosa, Bataan
7)	Sp2002D6Lc334	Scraping and Gravel Resurfacing of Switchyard at Concepcion Substation, Concepcion, Tarlac
8)	Sp2002D6Lc335	Repair of Bailey Bridge at Mexico Substation at Brgy. San Jose, Mexico, Pampanga
9)	Sp2002D7Lc336	Slope Protection of South West of Tower No. 23 of San Jose-Balintawak 230KV Transmission Line at Brgy. Camarin, Caloocan City
10)	Sp2002D7Lc337	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower No. 403 along San Manuel - San Jose 500 KV Transmission Line at San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan
11)	Sp2002AdmLc338	Conversion of Existing Warehouse into Training/Multi-Purpose Center at PSMD-North, Poro Point, San Fernando City
12)	Sp2002D7Lc323A	Construction of Slope Protection for Tower No. 52 of Dolores - San Jose 230KV Transmission Line at Sitio Wawa, San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal

The Contracts to be performed are:

Sp2002D2Lc328	Excavation, Rebars, Concrete, Grouted Rip-rap, Weepholes
Sp2002D2Lc329	Grading Excavation (Stockpile & Disposed), Repair of Damaged Riprap Canal. Re-gravelling (Spread & Tamped)
Sp2002D2Lc330	Grading Excavation (Stockpile & Disposed), Re-gravelling (Spread & Tamped)
Sp2002D3Lc331	Excavation Works, Installation of Gabions and Mattresses, Stone Filling, Rock Filling
Sp2002D4Lc332	Grading Excavation, Concreting Works, Re-gravelling, Compaction
Sp2002D5Lc333	Structural Excavation, Rebars, Concrete, Structural Steel Works, Erection of Steel Poles
Sp2002D6Lc334	Grading Excavation (Stockpile & Disposed), Gravel Resurfacing (Place & Grade)
Sp2002D6Lc335	Dismantling of Existing Dil. Bailey Panels, Removal/Replacing/Installation, Painting/Reconditioning
Sp2002D7Lc336	Surface Preparation, Structural Excavation, Fabrication Forms, Installation of Wire Net, Backfill, Concrete Spray, Drip Pipe Installation
Sp2002D7Lc337	Excavation Works, Erection of Stone Masonry Wall, Installation of PVC Weepholes, Sand and Gravel Filters, Backfilling Works
Sp2002AdmLc338	Excavation Demolition, Concreting, Masonry, Carpentry, 'Painting, Electrical Works, Mechanical Works
Sp2002D7Lc323A	Preparation & Lay-out of Site, Structural Excavation, Hauling of Materials, Installation of Stone Masonry Wall, Installation of Weepholes

The Budget for the Contracts to be Bid and contract duration are as follows:

Contract Code	Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Contract Duration
Lc328	One Million Three Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Six Pesos & 19/100 (P1,368,856.19)	Seventy-Seven (77) calendar days
Lc329	Three Hundred Ninety Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Seven Pesos & 88/100 (P390,187.88)	Forty-Four (44) calendar days
Lc330	Four Hundred Six Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Two Pesos & 33/100 (P406,732.33)	Forty (40) calendar days
Lc331	Two Million Eight Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Five Pesos & 37/100 (P2,839,905.37)	One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days
Lc332	Four Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-Six Pesos & 24/100 (P478,836.24)	Thirty-Six (36) calendar days
Lc333	One Million One Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand One Hundred Fifteen Pesos & 33/100 (P1,172,115.33)	Seventy-Three (73) calendar days
Lc334	Nine Hundred Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Five Pesos & 61/100 (P918,555.61)	Sixty-Six (66) calendar days
Lc 335	Eight Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty Pesos & 41/100 (P837,140.41)	Forty-Eight (48) calendar days
Lc336	One Million Three Hundred Thirteen Thousand Forty Three Pesos and 82/100 (P1,313,043.82)	Sixty-One (61) calendar days
Lc337	Seven Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Four Pesos & 07/100 (P739,344.07)	Forty-Four (44) calendar days
Lc338	Three Million Pesos (P 3,000,000.00)	One Hundred Fourteen (114) calendar days
Lc323A	Three Hundred Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Pesos & 39/100 (P380,650.39)	Forty (40) calendar days

Source of Funds is thru Internal Cash Generation.

Application Particulars for Eligibility is open to Filipino Contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB:

Contract Code	License	Registration
Lc328	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc329	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc330	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc331	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc332	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc333	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc334	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc335	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc336	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc337	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc338	At least Category D or C - General Building	At least Small B-Building & Industrial Plant
Lc323A	At least "Trade" - General Engineering	At least Small A - Roads & Highways

PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended dated May 24, 2000 and July 5, 2000 shall be applied to these contracts to be bid. NPC Circular No. 2001-07 dated February 15, 2001 shall apply also on Eligibility Requirements for those NPC Contracts for bid. Only the Licensee can apply for Eligibility and participate in the bidding of the above projects. Except for Corporation or Joint Venture, Special Power of Attorney (Specific or General) shall not be honored.

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NPC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the approved Budget for the Contracts to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to Post qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance from **July 5, 2002 to August 2, 2002** at the ***Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), National Power Corporation, Northern Luzon Regional Center, 2nd Basement, Plaza Natalia Building, 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City, Telefax No. (074) 445-4546*** upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Original PCAB License and Original Certification issued by Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP), submission of a photocopy thereof to the above office and a payment of non-refundable fee of Six Hundred Pesos (P600.00) per copy. Contractors who were pre-qualified and evaluated by the Screening Committee for the year 2002 need not apply for eligibility However, IB-04 of PD 1594 IRR will be applied, and Contractors pre-qualified for 2002 shall submit Letter of Intent, and additional documents like newly completed contracts to update their qualification.

All contractors applying for eligibility are required to attend the pre-eligibility screening conference on **August 5, 2002 at 2:00 P.M.** at NPC Conference Room where the legal, technical and financial aspects will be thoroughly discussed.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before **August 9, 2002 up to 3:00 P.M. only (official time is RCMO's clock)** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is non-working day or declared a non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately after said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

NPC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned **c/o Mr. Jaime G. Mateo, Section Chief, Regional Contracts Management Office at the aforementioned address.**

(Sgd.) CONRADO B. MARAMAG
Chairman, Regional Contracts Committee
North Luzon Transco

July 5 & 13, 2002 -- Inquirer

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1103
Tel. Nos. 372-5057 • 372-5042
Fax Nos. 372-5048 • 372-5061

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of the following items not later than **2:00 PM** on **July 26, 2002.**

ITEM(S) TO BID:

1	unit	**Digital Video Camera**
1	unit	**Underwater Still Camera**
-		**Various Scuba Diving Equipment and Accessories**

Bid for together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

Interested bidders are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: Photocopies of Business License, Certification Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (original copies to be shown for authentication purposes).

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI – July 13, 2002)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENERATION COMPANY I
161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 527-4880-82
GENCO I-2002-001 (PBD)

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE VEHICLES/HEAVY EQUIPMENTS AND SCRAP ALUMINUM SHEETS LOCATED AT MALAYA GAS TURBINE, GENCO I PORT AREA, AND BATAAN THERMAL POWER PLANT. "AS IS WHERE IS"

Date of Bidding: July 25, 2002 Time of Bidding: 2:00 PM

Station/Description	Estimated Quantity	Appraised Value
1 Malaya Gas Turbine AUV Fastrak (1993 Model) Plate Nos.: SDN-675 and SDP-539	One (1) lot	P 40,230.00/lot
2. GENCO I Motorpool NISSAN SENTRA Plate No.: PPS-872	One (1) LOT	P 39,400.00/lot
SCRAP ALUMINUM SHEETS	More or less 400 kgs.	P 35.00/kilo
3. Bataan Thermal Plant PICK-UP (Plant no.: SCC-763) FORKLIFT, Toyota, 70 HP Model 32LE-1007 S/N: F-187860 LOADER WHEEL, TEREX Model 72/51 220 HP CRANE, Hydraulic Rough Terrain, 18 tons, 112 HP Model R/T 60 S/N: 38988	One (1) lot	P 87,925.00/lot

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 PM on July 25, 2002 Sealed bids will be publicly opened on the scheduled date at 4th floor, GENCO I Bidding Room, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING.

4. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN (10%) PERCENT OF TOTAL ESTIMATED BID.
5. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY. (CY 2001)
6. REQUEST FOR INSPECTION AND BID FORMS AT P 50.00 PER SET MAY BE SECURED FROM THE WAREHOUSE SECTION - ADMINISTRATION DIVISION AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS AND INQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT THE STATED TELEPHONE NUMBER. LIKEWISE, REPRESENTATIVES MUST BRING WITH THEM WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT OF WHICH THEY ARE REPRESENTING. DEADLINE FOR ISSUANCE OF BID FORMS IS ON JULY 24, 2002. THE NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION-GENCO I RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY FOUND THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT/REJECT SUCH PROPOSALS AS MAYBE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ITS INTEREST.

(Sgd.) LORNA T. DY
Department Manager
Professional Services-GENCO I

(PDI--July 13, 2002)

National Power Corporation

ERRATUM

1) CONTRACT CODE FOR LC336 • THE APPROVED BUDGET SHOULD BE AND READ AS ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED THIRTEEN THOUSAND FORTY THREE PESOS AND 82/100 (P1,313,043.82) INSTEAD OF ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN THOUSAND SIXTY FOUR PESOS & 57/100 (P1,247,064 57)

2) CONTRACT CODE FOR LC338 • AT LEAST CATEGORY C-GENERAL ENGINEERING, AT LEAST SMALL B - ROADS AND HIGHWAYS SHOULD BE AND READ AS AT LEAST CATEGORY D OR C - GENERAL BUILDING, AT LEAST SMALL B - BUILDING & INDUSTRIAL PLANT AND THE APPROVED BUDGET SHOULD BE AND READ AS THREE MILLION PESOS (P3,000,000.00) INSTEAD OF THREE MILLION EIGHTEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE PESOS & 65/100 (P3,018,761.65) AS ADVERTISED IN THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER ON JULY 5, 2002

(PDI--July 13, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Telefax 813-4692; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph; Email: info@pdic.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites all authorized manufacturers, distributors, dealers and suppliers to be eligible to bid for the supply, delivery and installation of any or all of the following IT hardware and software:

QTY	HARDWARE	APPROVED BUDGET
75	Branded desktop computers	6,300,000
35	Branded notebook computers	4,200,000
15	Network switches	2,070,000
55	Uninterrupted power supply	2,310,000
6	Portable laser printers	144,000
10	High speed printers	3,600,000
2	Network laser printers	163,200
	SOFTWARE	
1	Crystal Reports with 5 users	142,220

The Request for Proposal shall be made available to interested bidders starting **July 15-19, 2002, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the 3rd Floor, Information Technology Department, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City from Ms. Jackie Jose or Ms. Maricel Flores. The prebid conference shall be held at the PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City on **July 22, 2002** at 2:00 p.m. to clarify/explain any provision stipulated in the Request for Proposal.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and postqualification shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail basis. Only eligible bidders shall be considered for bid awards.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) **CATHERINE F. BAMBA**
Chairman

(PDI - July 6 & 13 2002)

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Fax (632) 524-2320
E-mail: tnl@nlp.gov.ph

INVITATION TO SUBMIT BID PROPOSAL IT RESOURCES

June 13, 2002

The National Library is accepting bid proposals of hardware requirements listed below for further expansion of its Local Area Network. Interested parties may obtain the Pre-qualification Statement Forms (PSF) and Instruction to Bidders from the Property Section, The National Library.

Desktop Computers
Notebook Computer
Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)
Printers

The National Library reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein, and to accept only such bids as are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **PRUDENCIANA C. CRUZ**
DIRECTOR

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Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

---

*"Whoever serves Me must follow Me;
and where I am, My servant also will be."*
John 12:16

Our dearly beloved mother

LEONILA LEGASPI

Of Cabanatuan City

Passed away peacefully at St. Luke's Hospital on July 8, 2002.

Predeceased by her loving husband **Dangal**; and eldest daughter **Carmelita Villegas** (†).

Survived by her children **Manuel** and **Marilyn**, **Fermin** and **Angelita**, **Alice** and **Quinny Plata**, **Emma** and **Bruce Murray**, **Eddie** and **Rose**, **Arman** and **Yolanda**, **Virgilio** and **Cynthia**, **Nestor** and **Evie**, **Patchie** and **Jun Mangaluz**, **Gina** and **Jing Carabit**; sister **Nelly** and her husband **Ben Marcelino**; 30 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Her body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment is at 10:00 a.m. today, Saturday, July 13, 2002 at the Eternal Gardens, Baesa, Caloocan City.

**The Board of Directors and Officers of the
Dr. Vivencio V. Villaflor Sr. Medical Foundation
announce with deep regret the demise of**

AMBASSADOR ARMANDO C. FERNANDEZ

**Chairman, Board of Directors of
Dr. Vivencio V. Villaflor Sr. Medical Foundation Inc.
and former Vice Mayor of Dagupan City**

Who peacefully joined his Creator on July 10, 2002 at the age of 63 after receiving the last sacrament.

His remains lie in state at Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows Ave.,Quezon City and to be transferred to Dagupan City Museum on Saturday, July 13, 2002.

Interment will be at Eternal Gardens, Dagupan City, Pangasinan on Wednesday, July 17, 2002 after the 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any Identification document (I.D.)

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"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11: 25-26

Our Dearly Beloved

Capt. BENITO B. DIVIERTE, Jr.

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 11, 2002 at the age of 69.

His loving wife **NORMA**; children **NONNETTE**, **JUN-JUN** and **LIZA**, **ESPE**; grandchild **JOHN DANIEL**; sister-in-law **PERLA**; brother-in-law **BUDDY**; mother, brother, sisters, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapel, 296 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 14, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Quezon City.

Amanda Capistrano Castro

June 9, 1926 - July 9, 2002

Her bereaved husband **EUGENIO Sr.**; children **Manuel** and **Connie**, **Everilda**, **Eugenio Jr.** and **Marites**, **Helen** and **Nap**, **Amelita** and **Domingo**, **Lilian** and **Philip**, **Melba** and **Edwin**, **Oscar** and **Olivia**, **Jocelyn** and **Nellie**; grandchildren and great grandchild, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their residence at Capistrano Compound, 46-A M.L. Quezon Street, Bambang, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on July 14, 2002 at Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Calzadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila after the 2:00 PM Mass at St. Anne Parish Church, Sta. Ana, Taguig, Metro Manila.

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Small oil firms eye common terminal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said yesterday that minor players in the local oil industry were open to relocating to a common terminal and take after the safety and security practices of the "Big Three" oil firms.

In an interview, Perez said the small oil firms met on Wednesday with Undersecretary JV Emmanuel de Dios, who apprised them of how the three refiners and the Manila city government resolved an impasse over the Pandacan oil depots.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines agreed with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to scale down their facilities and jointly manage their Pandacan depots.

"Some of the new firms were supportive of (our suggestion that they relocate and share a common depot)," Perez said. "Their depots are in different parts of Metro Manila."

Flying V and Seaoil Petroleum Corp. are in Mandaluyong, Eastern Petroleum is in Pasig and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Corp. is in Sta. Ana. TotalFinaElf Petroleum Philippines Corp. is currently building a depot at the North Harbor in Manila.

Unioil, along with other new oil firms, also leases tanks in a smaller depot in Beata Street also in Pandacan.

"We told the new players that we could revisit 14 proposals from private entities on a possible relocation site within Metro Manila," Perez said.

The energy chief said the proposals were originally broached with the Big Three, when they were not sure yet on being allowed to stay in Pandacan.

He added that the proposals included the provision of a new site, installation of new tanks and management of the common terminal.

"We can revisit these proposal and see what could be appropriate, but it is up to the oil companies to decide," Perez said. "The DOE (Department of Energy) will just play its usual mediating role."

In an earlier interview, Flying V chair Ramon Villavicencio said the precedent of the Big Three's agreement with Atienza meant that the smaller players would have to take similar steps.

"I believe the other local governments (which host) our depots may eventually take the same stance that the Manila city council took," Villavicencio.

In such case, he said the new players might have to share and manage a common terminal.

He added that the biggest snag on this move would be where a common product terminal could be put up and whether the new players could agree to take up such a project.

Total and Eastern, meanwhile, noted that it was currently building its own depot in the North Harbor.

Rona Quejada, Total corporate affairs manager, said the firm had obtained all the necessary permits for this, including a mayor's permit secured after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Fears of similar problems prompted the Manila city council to push for the relocation of the Pandacan depots outside the city limits.

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Alcatel inks $1-M cable supply deal with Meralco

By Abigail L. Ho

ALCATEL Philippines Inc. has closed a $1-million supply deal with power distributor Manila Electric Co. that will involve supplying switches linking Meralco's district offices to its main branch in Pasig City.

Under the deal, Alcatel will provide the country's largest power distributor with 13 OmniSwitch 7800s. These are networking equipment designed for firms with high bandwidth requirements.

Gilbert Paggabao, Alcatel e-Business Distribution Inc.'s president and general manager, said in an interview yesterday that this new deal had made Meralco Alcatel eBDI's biggest customer.

"In terms of value, Meralco is our biggest customer with 25 existing switches, plus 13 more within the month," he said.

He added that Alcatel already had an existing supply deal with Meralco for 25 local area network switches.

The 13 new switches will be for the power firm's metropolitan area network, as these are capable of linking networks up to a 70-kilometer radius.

Alcatel started talking with Meralco two to three months ago, but the order for the switches was placed only last month, Paggabao said.

These new switches will no longer require a testing period upon installation as these have already been tested before the actual placement of order.

Globe integrates Internet, data under one brand

GLOBE Telecom Inc. has integrated its data and Internet services under one brand, "GlobeQuest," to give its clients a "one-stop, state-of-the-art network solution" that will help them run their businesses.

"GlobeQuest expresses the intent of all our business groups—an intent to discover the best solutions with rigor and perseverance. Our objective is to place GlobeQuest in the environment to make a statement: We will change your world," Globe's wireline data group head, Jesus Romero, said in a statement yesterday.

He explained that the telecommunications firm decided to consolidate its "GlobeNet" and "GlobeData" brands into one brand, as it had become difficult for customers to distinguish one brand from the other because of the bundling of services.

Romero said bundling had to be done to come up with an "integrated winning solution" for both brands' customers.

"The need to rationalize the brands and rework their communication programs becomes apparent as we see the importance of leveraging on both brands' capabilities and having a more effective and coherent way of communicating them," he added. *Abigail L. Ho*

SEC extends dirty money deadline

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has extended up to Sept. 1 the deadline for companies it regulates to submit their respective manuals on anti-money laundering.

This was in response to the request of some quarters, including the Philippine Association of Securities Brokers and Dealers, to extend the deadline until that time.

In line with the Anti-Money Laundering Act passed last year, the SEC required securities dealers, brokers, salesmen, investment houses, mutual funds, pre-need companies and other similar organizations under its supervision to submit manuals on anti-money laundering.

Money laundering is the process of cleaning dirty money. The money is "dirty" in the sense that it comes as proceeds from criminal acts, including illegal arms sales, smuggling, drug trafficking, prostitution, embezzlement, insider trading, bribery and computer fraud.

Companies covered by the anti-money laundering law are required to establish and record the true identity of their clients. *Elena R. Torrijos*

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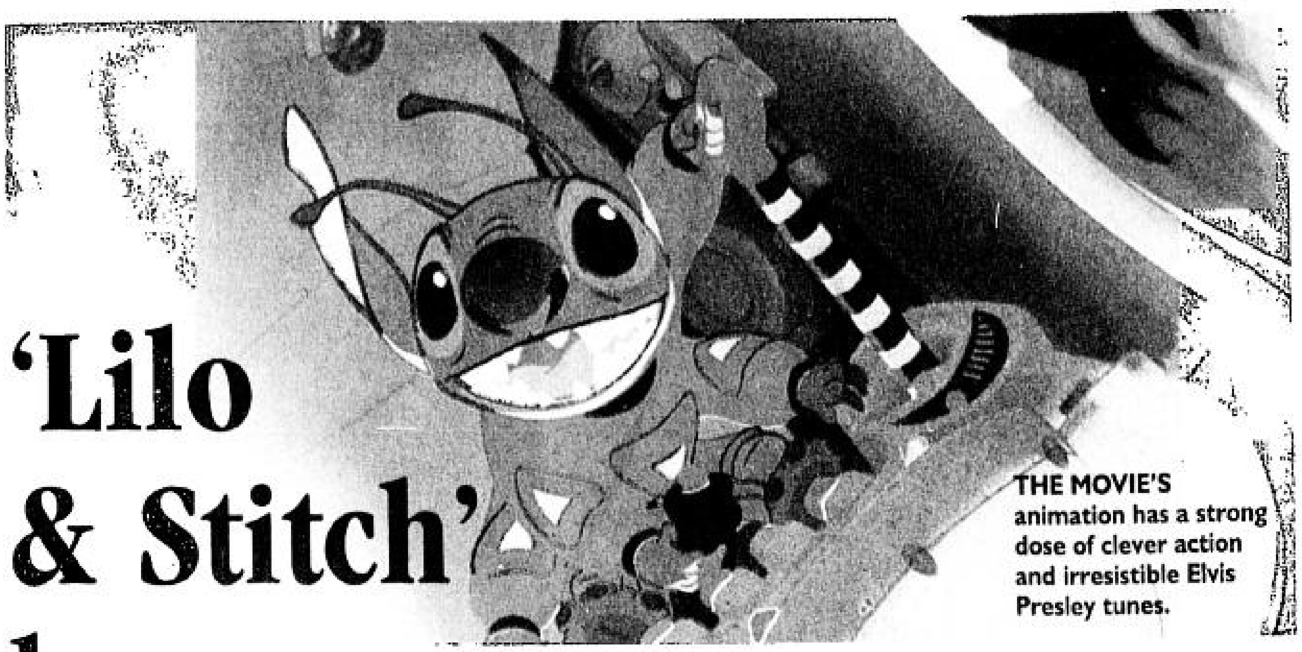

THE MOVIE'S animation has a strong dose of clever action and irresistible Elvis Presley tunes.

'Lilo & Stitch' has family appeal

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—The Hawaiian word "ohana" means family, and that no one gets left behind, according to Disney's latest animated adventure, "Lilo & Stitch."

Energetic

The movie practices what it preaches. "Lilo & Stitch" is a sweet, energetic, reasonably funny little confection that's all-inclusive when it comes to family appeal.

For girls, there's the young spark plug Lilo (voiced by child actor Daveigh Chase), a Hawaiian preteen misfit with a strong will and hopeful outlook despite a troubled home life with her older sister Nani (Tia Carrere) after their parents' deaths.

For boys, there's sci-fi gadgetry galore and the Looney Tunes Tasmanian-Devil mayhem of Stitch, a destructive alien mutant who escapes his interstellar jailers and takes up residence with Lilo as her new pet "dog."

For parents, there's a depiction of real-life economic and domestic strife that's unusually substantive in a cartoon, plus a sunny message of familial faith and resilience.

Fetching animation

And for everyone, there's fetching animation with vibrant watercolors, a strong dose of clever action and an irresistible soundtrack of Elvis Presley tunes.

Very young children may have trouble digesting the film's prologue, which introduces Stitch, his mad-scientist creator and an alien culture of beasties that cannot tolerate a genetic abomination such as Stitch to roam free. Once the film comes to Earth, though, young ones should coast along pleasantly on the sight gags alone.

"Lilo & Stitch" was written and directed by Chris Sanders and Dean DeBlois, both making their directing debuts after apprenticing in various Disney animation assignments, most notably "Mulan."

The story opens with the six-limbed, floppy-eared, razor-toothed "Experiment 626" (voiced by co-director Sanders, mostly employing grunts and squeals with occasional words thrown in) sentenced to exile because of his calamitous nature. His maker, four-eyed deranged genius Jumba (David Ogden Stiers), has imbued his creation with super-hero skills and an instinct to destroy.

When the creature steals a spaceship and escapes to Earth, Jumba is dispatched to recapture him. Jumba is accompanied by the one-eyed Pleakley (Kevin McDonald), the alien equivalent of a tree-hugging environmentalist, who tags along to make sure no damage is done to Earth's endangered mosquitoes or their food source—humans.

Pursuers

To hide from his pursuers, Experiment 626 morphs into a four-limbed approximation of a dog and is adopted by Lilo, who names him Stitch. A petulant child at first, Lilo is desperately trying to rebuild the sense of family she and 19-year-old Nani lost when their parents died.

Meantime, Nani struggles to put food on the table, deflect the attentions of her nice-guy ex-boyfriend (Jason Scott Lee) and cope with an imposing social worker (Ving Rhames) who thinks she's unfit to continue as Lilo's guardian.

Against his diabolical nature, Stitch becomes a pivotal player in reassembling the pieces and making "ohana" a meaningful word again for Lilo and Nani.

The film is briskly paced, with enough pratfalls, chases and perpetual motion to keep young viewers occupied. The action is nicely accentuated by well-chosen Presley songs such as "Hound Dog," "Blue Hawaii" and "Suspicious Minds."

For an added musical bonus over the end credits, Wynonna Judd does a decent version of Presley's "Burning Love" and the A-Teens do a sugary, beat-heavy cover of "Can't Help Falling in Love."

"Lilo & Stitch," a Disney release, runs 85 minutes. Three stars out of four. *AP*

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Michael Jackson slams treatment of black artists

By Daniel Sorid

NEW YORK—The self-ordained King of Pop Michael Jackson lashed out at the music industry's treatment of black artists—including himself—in an appearance last Saturday with New York civil rights leader Rev. Al Sharpton.

"The record companies really do conspire against the artists," Jackson, 43, told an adoring crowd of around 350 people inside Sharpton's National Action Network headquarters in Harlem. "Especially black artists."

Dispute

The former boy wonder of the Jackson Five said generations of black musicians have been hurt and manipulated by profit-grabbing record companies, and called attention to his own dispute with label Sony Music.

"When you fight for me, you're fighting for all black people, dead and alive," Jackson said.

Jackson has called on Sony to release music recorded in a charity effort that followed the Sept. 11 attacks. There have also been charges that Sony Music, owned by Japanese media and electronics giant Sony Corp., failed to properly promote his latest album, "Invincible," which has had disappointing sales.

Sympathy

The dispute has won sympathy from Sharpton and lawyer Johnnie Cochran, who have started an initiative against what the two say is the exploitation of artists of all races and colors by record companies.

JACKSON. Unwarranted attack?

Jackson also targeted Sony Music Entertainment chief Tommy Mottola, calling him a racist and "devilish." He accused Mottola of using the "n-word"—a highly derogatory racial slur—referring to an unidentified black Sony artist.

A Sony spokesman said Jackson's comments were "ludicrous, spiteful and hurtful." "It seems particularly bizarre that he has chosen to launch an unwarranted and ugly attack on an executive who has championed his career, and the careers of so many other superstars, for many years," he said.

Later on Saturday, a group of around 150 fans—including a few Jackson look-alikes and one man who regaled the crowd with his Jackson-inspired "moonwalk" dance—gathered outside Sony's midtown Manhattan offices to call for a boycott of all Sony products and the ouster of Mottola.

Protest

"We feel that they are sabotaging the album," said Chantal Obrist, who came to New York from Switzerland to join the protest.

Charges that record companies have exploited minority artists are neither new nor limited to the King of Pop. Many have argued that African-American musicians have been withheld the riches generated by their creativity and performances for more than a century.

The industry has defended itself by emphasizing the financial risks taken on by record labels when they sign new artists, many of whom fail to make money.

Although Jackson's groundbreaking music from his 1980s heyday influenced a generation of artists, his output has been spotty in recent years.

"Invincible," which reportedly cost about $30 million to make, fell out of the US top 200 charts in May after selling just 2 million copies in 28 weeks. By contrast, the new album by rapper Eminem sold as many copies in about two weeks. *Reuters*

Rufa Mae Quinto, comedienne and vamp

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

SHE has wit and charm. The whole "dumb" image is just a clever marketing ploy. She has a sense of self-acceptance and she bravely capitalizes on her "assets."

"Booba" and "Super B" did quite well at the tills because she's a vamp and comedienne. A wide range of viewers enjoyed her natural flair for comedy.

Director

"I enjoyed doing 'Booba' and 'Super B.' Sometimes *nga* during the shooting I would end up laughing. I couldn't help it *talaga! E* our director, Joyce Bernal, *sinakyan pa yung kabibahan ko.* She allowed us to do whatever we wanted," Rufa Mae shares.

She took the bold route when she started out in the movies, starring as a *labandera* who caught the eye of her *amo* Gary Estrada in "Gloria Labandera." This after languishing in "That's Entertainment" as a wholesome performer.

What sets her apart from other sexy stars is the fact that she's added comedy to her sexy image. She would be the dumb blonde in Hollywood movies, except that she has dark hair and has a knack for looking silly and ridiculous without even trying.

She realizes that comedians last longer in the business. She's really wacky, a trait she inherited from her mom.

Change of image

The change of image worked and Rufa is in great demand for TV sitcoms. She's a regular on ABC 5's "Ispup" and GMA-7's "Idol Ko Si Kap." Unlike other bold stars who have tried comedy, Rufa can really make people laugh.

Her family is conservative but they understand her sexy image. "*Alam mo, yung* sexy *naman kasi, nag*-start *ako* slowly. They have gotten used to me accepting mature roles. *Alam naman nila* that they can trust me. When I was still in school, *nag*-excel *ako. Kaya lang ako nag*-'That's Entertainment' *kasi napabarkada ako noong* fourth year high school *na ako,* so my grades went down.

"It was my Lola who sent me to school, *kaya siyempre nahiya talaga ako at di ko nakayanan. Siyempre may utang na loob ka,* so *ayaw mong maka*-hurt. I also wanted to help my family. *Di naman kami sobrang naghihirap pero siyempre gusto kong tumulong.*"

QUINTO. Natural flair for comedy.

What did she want to be when she was growing up?

"I wanted to be a lawyer. *Yung tipong naka*-suit, yung *naka*-high heels na *pormal.* Then when I got older, I wanted to be a stewardess. I never expected *na ito pala ang mararating ko.* But I'm happy."

Career

Does she have plans to go back to school? "Yes, *pero di ba sabi nila,* strike while the iron is hot? So I'll stick to my career for awhile. *Hindi rin naman nakakahiyang mag*-college *kahit may edad ka na.* Another thing, *gusto ko talaga pag nag-aral ako ulit, dibdiban na.* I really want to take time to learn. *Pero di ko kayang gawin lahat.*"

She's a natural in delivering her punchlines. Her deadpan look makes her wisecracks effective. She's also at home with sexually explicit jokes. She finds comedy easier to do than drama. In comedy, she's always happy after the work is done, whereas in dramatic productions, she's emotionally drained after the shooting is over.

Good scripts win Oscars for some bankable stars

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

KIRK Douglas almost won the statuette for two auspicious roles in "Lust For Life" and "Spartacus." Despite an illustrious career, he never brought home the Oscar, whereas son Michael readily got the statuette on his mantle with the powerful script of "Wall Street."

Glenda Jackson, an English import from London's West End, had already won Oscars for "Women in Love" and "A Touch of Class." Also prominent for her fine acting skill and popular appeal is Meryl Streep, who first brought home a Best Supporting Award for her deeply moving performance in "Kramer vs Kramer" where she pitted her Yale training not only with the intensely powerful Dustin Hoffman but also with a scene-stealing young boy who played their son.

Nominations

In less than five years, she won the Best Actress statuette for "Sophie's Choice," while garnering nominations for practically every film she appeared in.

Hoffman, who won his first Oscar for "Kramer" in 1979, again was honored with a best actor Oscar for "Rainman" in 1988. Jodie Foster won the Oscar for "The Accused" in 1988 and repeated the feat in 1991 for "The Silence of the Lambs." Tom Hanks, a James Stewart reincarnation, won two Oscars in quick succession for "Philadelphia" in 1993 and "Forrest Gump" in 1994. Foster and Streisand have also been cited for their directorial assignments. Talk of a surfeit of good scripts!

Bankable stars

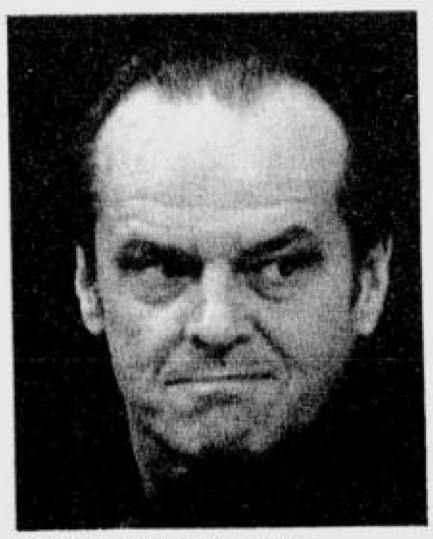
Times have changed, indeed. Bankable stars are sent fine scripts by aggressive writers, agents and producers. Simultaneously, these stars search out scripts for production. They even audition for desired roles when necessary, so eager are they for challenging and career-transforming scripts.

Sissy Spacek did not bother to develop a glamorous Hollywood image. Instead, the talented lady transformed herself into awarding-winning screen characters with an undisputed talent that has firmly established her as one of the dramatic queens of Hollywood.

It's only a matter of time before the versatile Glenn Close will finally cop an Oscar. She has been a consistent nominee and certainly one of the very best thespians on the big screen. Her Tony Award-winning performance as Norma Desmond on Broadway makes her a frontrunner for the coveted role when the musical version of "Sunset Boulevard" is adapted for the screen.

Even glamorous but limited actress Sharon Stone is bound to essay the perfect script at the right time and bring home a statuette.

Like the multi-awarded Barbra Streisand, Field, Dunaway, Spacek, Close, Stone, Streep and Hollywood's new royalty like Julia Roberts, Matt Damon and Mel Gibson, lend their names to causes they believe in. They stake their reputations on advocacies that are meaningful to them.


NICHOLSON. Has won an unprecedented four Oscars as Best Actor.

This new set of Hollywood movers is fiercely independent, principled, politically involved and determined to make a difference in cinema and the world at large. In the meantime, they make award-winning films and reap their just rewards.

More awards

Jack Nicholson has already won an unprecedented four Academy Awards as Best Actor. Tom Hanks has two so far. Both have many fruitful years left to win more awards. Julia Roberts is not satisfied being a box-office queen, she has received a fair share of nominations and the golden statuette for "Erin Brockovich."

Even black actors Denzel Washington and Halle Barry won the coveted statuettes the same year, proving that unconventional scripts are now being written. This steady supply of challenging scripts gave them the roles that merited those long-desired awards.

The future seems rosy for contemporary actors of proven thespic worth and box-office clout. Today's stars benefit from the frustrations and courage of the likes of Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Louise Rainier and especially the demure but feisty Olivia de Havilland, who dared to file a suit against Warner Brothers and won.

The foundation was laid by those spirited ladies so that the stars of today could be empowered, rewarded and awarded for their dramatic efforts.

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Tony Curtis reprises 'Some Like It Hot' as stage musical

By Andrew Kelly

HOUSTON—The stage career of the young Tony Curtis had barely begun when he was whisked away to Hollywood in the late 1940s to be groomed as a star of the silver screen.

Now, at the age of 77, Curtis is getting a second shot as a stage actor, appearing again in "Some Like It Hot," the fabulously successful 1959 farce in which he starred with Marilyn Monroe and Jack Lemmon.

Curtis said he didn't have to think long before accepting his role in the production, a musical version that faithfully follows the storyline of director Billy Wilder's movie that was selected by the American Film Institute as the funniest American film of all time.

Playing the part was an opportunity to "get active and give back to my audience that has been so generous in its support to me," he said in an interview between performances in Houston.

Curtis said he is being paid well, is enjoying the interaction with his fellow performers, and that the whole experience is more than living up to his expectations.

"We've turned ourselves into a nice company and we're getting some good laughs," he said.

Screen version

In the screen version of "Some Like It Hot" Curtis and Lemmon played musicians who disguise themselves as women in a bid to escape from Chicago mobster Spats Colombo and his gang of Prohibition-era bootleggers.

Onstage, Curtis is now playing the amorous millionaire Osgood Fielding III, who falls in love with "Daphne," the character originally played by Jack Lemmon.

The story ends with an exasperated Daphne pulling off her wig and telling the smitten Fielding she cannot marry him because she is a man, to which Fielding, played originally by Joe E. Brown, replies: "Nobody's perfect!"

"I love the punchline of the play. I get a chance to do that live," said Curtis.

Curtis, devastatingly handsome in his younger days with dark hair and gleaming smile, still looks the part of the ladies' man, appearing much younger than his 77 years. The smile is intact.

Native New Yorker

Curtis was born Bernard Schwartz in New York City in 1925 and grew up in a poor section of the Bronx. His father, a tailor, emigrated to the United States from Hungary.

He joined the Navy in World War Two and took acting lessons in New York on his return.

Curtis was playing the lead role in a production of the play "Golden Boy" in 1948 when he was spotted and signed by a talent scout for Universal Studios.

CURTIS. Second shot as a stage actor.

Painless

The way Curtis tells it, the track to stardom was swift and painless: "Somebody saw me in a play and put me in the movies." He went on to make well over 100 films including "Trapeze," "Sweet Smell of Success," "Spartacus," "The Boston Strangler" and "The Last Tycoon." For his current role, Curtis took singing and dancing lessons because the part is physically demanding at times. But he is not complaining. "I don't feel like I'm working. I'm just having a good time," he said.

The Houston Chronicle said Curtis was clearly no song-and-dance man but came over as "an amiable guy having a lark in his golden-age fling at musical comedy." One of his songs includes the line "naughty old men need naughty young girls"—a sentiment which Curtis personally endorses.

"Why would I have a problem with that . . . What's wrong with a naughty old man going out with a naughty young girl?"

Curtis said working in the musical brings back memories of working on the film with Lemmon and Monroe.

"Those two darlings are gone now. I think of them with great affection and warmth. Billy Wilder as well. They were good guys," he said.

"Some Like It Hot" was launched with a three-week run presented by Theater Under The Stars at Houston's new $100-million Hobby Center for the Performing Arts.

Atlanta and Kansas City are the next stops in a tour of 28 US cities where performances are scheduled through May 2003.

The show might also play on Broadway. *Reuters*

TWO FOR THE SHOW

KC Montero gets real

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

KC Montero is more than just Troy's little brother. He can give Martin Nievera a run for his money because of his wit and candor. He believes that competition is healthy and is unfazed when he is compared to his older brother. How does he feel about Troy's being in show business?

"I guess it's easier because he can be the guinea pig. There's a little bit of competition between Troy and me, but we're brothers before anything else. Besides I always win, anyway," he laughs.

KC never imagined he'd be on television. Everytime he sees himself on TV, he turns the set off. He says that he encounters difficulties in show business. "One difficulty is I don't have a regular schedule so it's hard to have any kind of personal life. Also, there are a lot of people who aren't real. They all have hidden agendas."

How does he know whom to trust, then? "I don't let anybody get that close to me—it's my way of playing safe. If you trust the wrong people, you end up getting screwed."

What does he plan to do after show business? "Become a businessman. What kind of business? "World domination!"

Is there anything he won't do? "Porn. I just can't see myself showing my butt on TV."

Has he ever been in love?

"Yes once. It was cool. But I'm not in love anymore. She was spur-of-the-moment and goofy like me, but she let her friends run her life. She didn't have a mind of her own. Let's just say the first couple of years were cheese and crackers, but the last couple were, well, crackerjacks. I learned a lot of things from it, though. Now I know what I like and what I don't like."

What do you like in girls? "Someone who keeps me on my toes. Someone I can feel at ease with. Someone who doesn't shy away from me. Someone who's game at anything. Someone with a sense of humor. Some who's not superficial. Someone who can talk with me, get deep with me. I have a list."

What would it take for him to commit to a girl?

"Not a lot. She should understand the way my brain works, though, because sometimes even I need help figuring out my own brain. And there has to be mutual respect. That's about it. I'm a sucker for love!"

Dante Thomas is destined to succeed

Destined to become one of the essential albums of 2001, Dante Thomas' "Fly" relies on the 23-year-old singer's gift for interpreting a lyric, as he imbues songs like "Miss California" and the title track "Fly" with the kind of charismatic depth that only the best R&B singers possess.

"When I was younger, I was always listening to Stevie Wonder, Donnie Hathaway, singers like that. I had this friend who was always into music. One day he told me: You want to sing like those cats? Go to what they listen to. Then you'll be a singer!," Dante recalls.

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Dante bought a bus ticket to New York City soon after graduating high school to pursue his dream of being a singer. "I didn't know anybody. I slept in the bus station my first night there. I entered a safehouse for kids trying to make a go of it in rough 'n' ready New York. I looked for a job and also tried to get my musical career going on the side."

But New York was also a wake-up call for Dante. "I made progress, Then I'd find I was losing myself a bit. I eventually went back to Utah. I was thinking of giving it all up. I was thinking of getting an electrician's job like all my friends.

"But my manager enlisted some more connections in New York, so I decided to give it another try. I took our demo around again. One night, we decided to go to this New York recording studio, The Hit Factory. Pras happened to be there. He said he wanted to do something together and for us to call his assistant.

"But this was my moment and you never know what could happen if you let a chance slip away, so I knew I couldn't let the opportunity pass. I started busting a Stevie Wonder song right there!

"Pras was impressed and we began working on 'Miss California' that night. The version on the album is the exact version we played that night."

Guess celebrates anniversary

This year Guess? Jeans USA celebrates its 20th year anniversary on the international fashion scene, and in the Philippines, it marks its 10th year.

In the Philippines where Guess? opened in 1992, a string of entertainment and fashion events has been lined up. It kicks off with a gala fashion show featuring the latest Guess? collection to be held at the NBC Tent, the Fort on Aug. 23. After the launch, the fasion show will tour commercial shopping malls.

Newscasting and public service

MONTERO. Doesn't let anybody get really close to him.

We were glued to the TV news when the rains came pouring down like crazy and we just want to single out Mike Enriquez and the "Saksi" team for really taking us where the action was.

Picture this: Enriquez, who is main achor, was wading in the floodwaters of Malabon and delivering the news. That's what we call a fusion of newscasting and public service.

We notice that "Saksi" and "Frontpage" give us meatier news and better presentaion of headlines. Seems that Channel 7's prized news and public affairs people are taking their Serbisyong Totoo campaign to heart. Keep it up.

Bobby Garcia scores another theater coup

The Manila production of Jonathan Larson's critically-acclaimed musical "Tick Tick Boom" will be the first outside its New York run. Bobby Garcia got the green light from the Larson family last November to stage what Time Magazine said was one of the best musicals of 2001.

Garcia is excited about the curiosity among young people about musical theater.

He adds that ground work is also being done on upcoming productions like "The Rocky Horror Show" and "Dreamgirls."

Scheduled to run at the RCBC Thater in Makati from July 26 to Aug. 11, "Tick Tick Boom" stars Micahel de Mesa, Jett Pangan and Bituin Escalante.

Candid Claudine

We caught Cito Beltran's one-on-one with Claudine Barretto recently and liked the Claudine that we saw. Months after Rico Yan's sudden demise, Claudine looks like she's on her way to full recovery.

Never mind the rare moments when the TV camera zoomed in on her still forlorn pair of eyes, because, as she asserted, "I've finally started to move on."

She was quick to stress, though, that she didn't mean that she has already found a new boyfriend in the person of Raymart Santiago. In her own words, she said, "*Hindi ko pa siya* boyfriend."

Claudine shared that she has given up living alone, saying, "I've realized that life is too short, that's why I decided to be as close physically to my family as possible."

Claudine turns 23 on July 20, and her mother studio is preparing a free concert for her fans at the Folk Arts Theater.

Musical evocation of silence

By Leia Torre

(Conclusion)

THE PIECES of music that comprise the album "Silence" are all relaxing, due to the instruments used. Most of the compositions are dominated by the flute, played by Ray Sison. The strains of the flute are sometimes enhanced by piano accompaniment, evoking sounds which are meant to represent nature from the keyboards, synthesizers, and chimes.

It is remarkable how everyone involved in this album is able to produce music that is truly evocative of silence. Silence, by its very nature, is usually seen as the exact opposite of sound, which music is very much a part of. But it is indicative of the musicians' talent that they were able to take the paradox and make it seem not to be one at all.

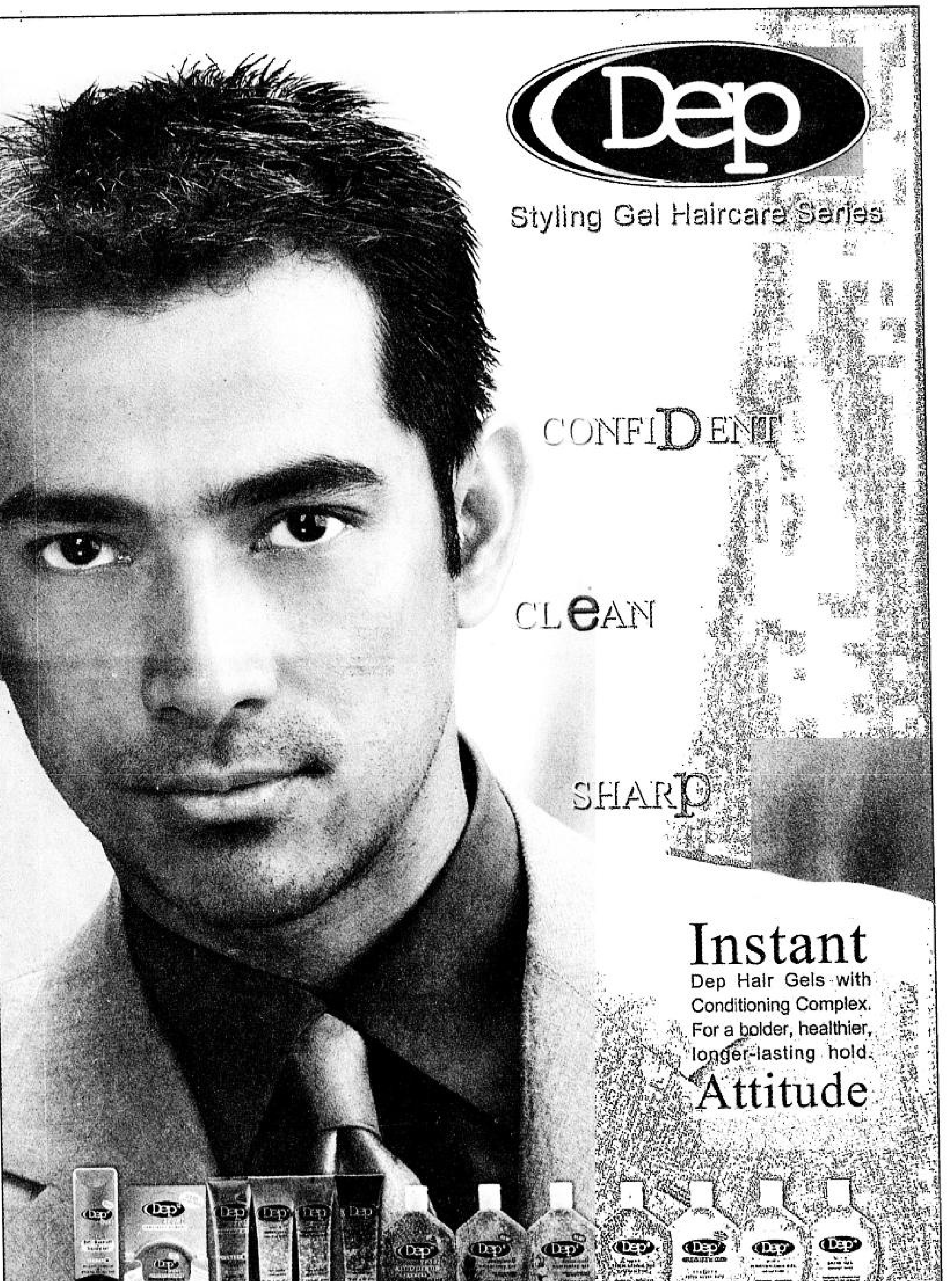
Moon over water

The album cover is a work of art, containing selected pictures from the book. These include a shot of the moon over water, curtains billowing out from windows, the shadow of leaves against rain-spattered glass, and a shell against a backdrop of sand, etc. These images are accompanied by verses that complement the illustrations and assist the listener in achieving an appreciation of silence. These introspective verses were created by Michelle Diotay.

In addition, each number is described in words and its underlying meaning is also explained. This does not mean, however, that the listener should restrict himself to these definitions. Music, like everything we encounter in life, is often subjective. That which some people consider as noise may be seen as quite restful by others.

Lesson

Another benefit that can be gained by listening to this album is that the listener is taught to appreciate sounds that he may not have even noticed before. A very important lesson is taught without any words being said: music can be found in almost every sound, and with some imagination and creativity, one can discern a beautiful sonata in the sounds of everyday life.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Navajo artist debuts as actor in 'Windtalkers'

"WINDTALKERS" lead star Nicolas Cage.

By Julie Ann Stephens

ALBUQUERQUE—To Roger Willie, speaking Navajo is about the most natural thing in the world. The language connects him to the earth and to who he is—a Navajo.

It also helped win him a leading role in "Windtalkers," an MGM movie that opened recently in the United States.

Hidden stories

The film tells one of the hidden stories of World War II: how Navajo men were recruited and trained to deliver messages during the United States' bloody Pacific island-hopping campaign.

The Navajo Code Talkers developed a military code based on their ancient language, which is spoken by few people outside the Navajo Reservation in the southwest United States. The uncrackable code was the top secret of World War II next to the atom bomb, and "Windtalkers" is the first big-budget film to focus on its creators.

Willie, who seamlessly switches from English to Navajo during an interview at an Albuquerque hotel, says he is proud to play code talker Charlie Whitehorse in a movie that promotes the Navajo language.

Two children

"I speak Navajo better than I do English," says the actor, who grew up in Continental Divide, N.M., near the reservation. His parents speak to him in Navajo—a practice he continues with his own two children.

"We say that a language is sacred. You have to be very selective and careful with our words in Navajo. In that way, it serves as a powerful tool."

A group of 29 original Navajo recruits developed the military code by linking Navajo words with English words and letters. It was kept a military secret until 1968.

"When you look at the words themselves, it really gives you a strong indication about how strong (the code talkers') cultural values were because of the words that are used to signify certain things," says Willie.

"You are looking at possibly some animals that are sacred, animals that have some kind of tie to the cultural values, maybe are somewhere in the oral tradition stories."

Some of the words used to create the code have fallen out of use in Navajo society, he says.

Willie, 38, who now lives in Tucson, Arizona, is a painter and US Army veteran who served during the Gulf War.

His first experience with acting came during an open casting call for "Windtalkers" on the Navajo Reservation.

"What I knew was that movies were all about portraying characters," he says. "I just looked at (the script) and I thought, 'I have seen this, I have seen it in my lifetime' . . . It reminded me of when I was in the military and I just thought, 'OK. These are my lines and if this is for real, how would I say it? Let's see if I can do this.'"

Willie says he was surprised to land the role.

"It has just been a tremendous blessing in so many ways." *AP*

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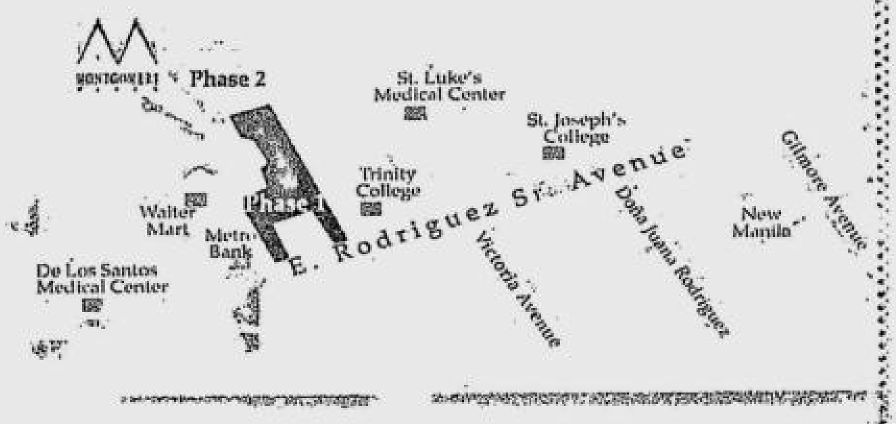

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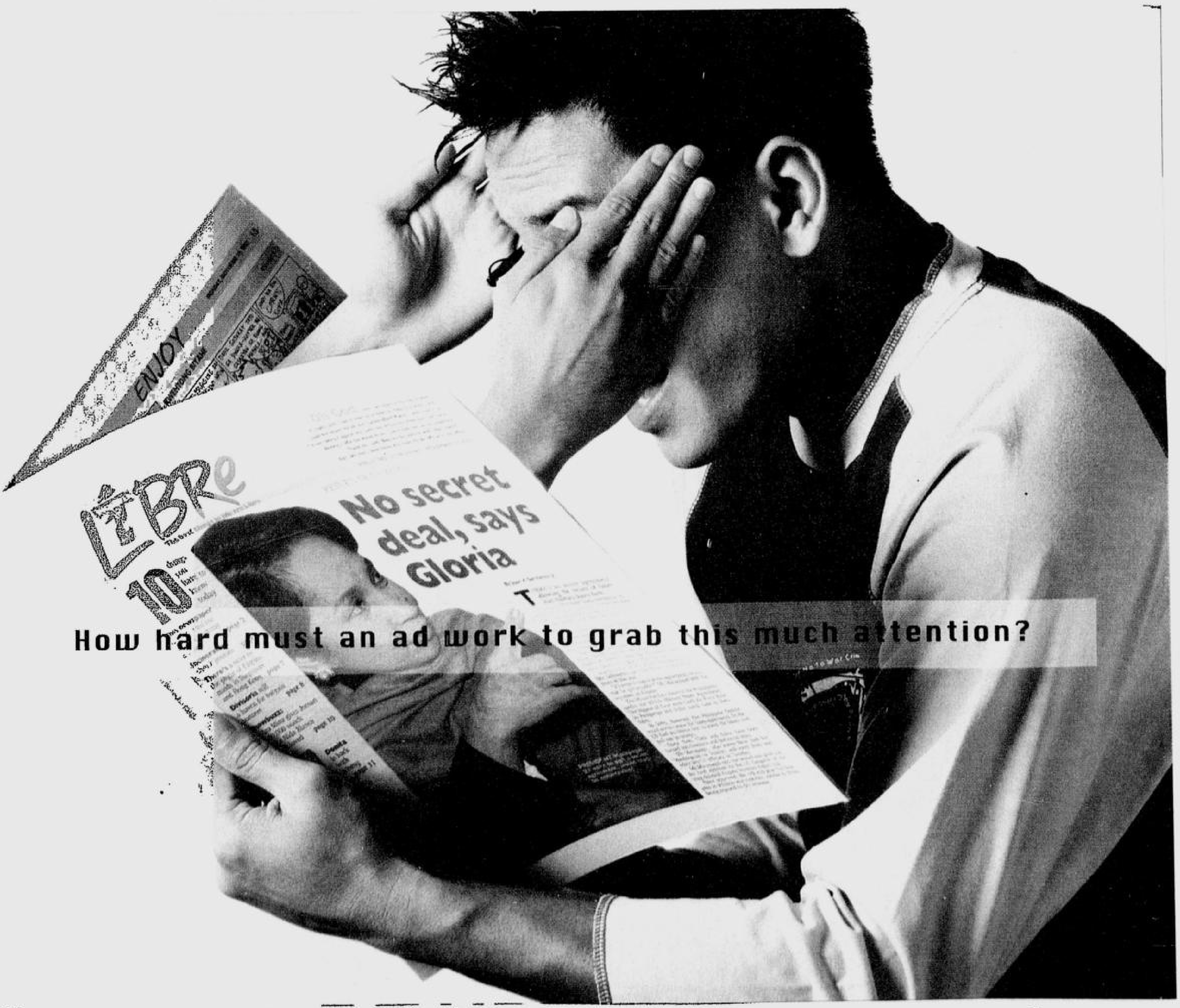
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LiBRe

Harry Potter is hairy dwarf in unauthorized Chinese book

By Audra Ang

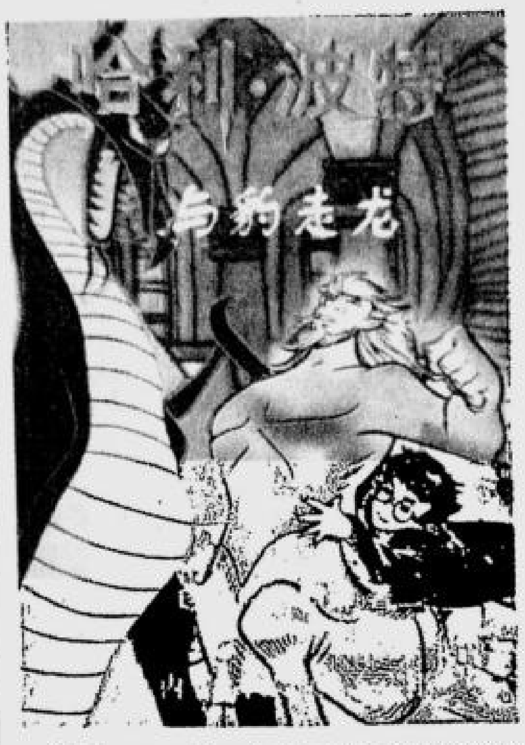
BEIJING—Roll away, "Sorcerer's Stone!" Step aside, "Prisoner of Azkaban!" Harry Potter and Leopard-Walk-Up-To-Dragon are here!

Chinese fans of the British boy wizard with the lightning-bolt scar on his forehead are snapping up the fifth book in the wildly popular series.

Problem

There's just one problem. It's fake—written by a Chinese author for a Chinese audience.

The 198-page book—titled "Harry Potter and Leopard-Walk-Up-To-Dragon" after its mysterious villain—has the name and bio of British author J.K. Rowling on its cover. But the tale in which Harry turns into a hairy dwarf after a "sour-sweet rain" is the unauthorized work of an anonymous author.



THE FAKE Harry Potter book is selling for 10 yuan ($1.20) in Beijing.

"We have not found who wrote the book or where they come from," said Zhang Deguang of the People's Literature Publishing House, which has the series' publishing rights in China. "It's made a negative impact on our book sales."

Rowling is at work on the real fifth installment, which is not expected to be finished this year.

Rowling's agent, the Christopher Little Literary Agency in London, said it was aware of the fake Chinese Harry. A spokeswoman who asked not to be identified refused to comment by telephone, but sent The Associated Press an e-mail saying, "We are taking this issue extremely seriously."

Punishment

It was unclear what punishment the fake author could face, given the uniqueness of the situation. However, China's government has promised repeatedly to crack down on counterfeiters and intellectual property theft. Still, flocks of hawkers selling fake DVDs were plying their trade unpunished Friday in central Beijing, in full view of police.

Harry Potter—"Ha-li Bo-te" in Mandarin—has had authorized translations into 18 languages.

A movie made from the first book, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," ranked No. 7 on the all-time box office list in the United States, taking in $317 million. In China, unauthorized copies were being sold by DVD peddlers on the street four days after it opened in the United States and Britain.

Publication in 2000 of the genuine Harry Potter—a boxed set of the four books to date—was a major literary event in China.

A team of four translators, veterans who had rendered "Alice in Wonderland" and "Tom Sawyer" into Chinese, drew on China's own tales of ghosts, magic and kung fu for language to portray Harry's world of sorcery. *AP*

Photo was taken in the model unit

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'World Traveler' features impressive performances

By David Germain

IN an industry where the term "road trip" has become synonymous with gross hijinks, Bart Freundlich's "World Traveler" serves as an elegant, inventive counterpoint.

Internal journey

The writer-director's follow-up to "The Myth of Fingerprints," "World Traveler" is more compelling for the internal journey Billy Crudup charts than his literal cross-country jaunt.

With impressive performances from Crudup, co-star Julianne Moore and the rest of the supporting cast, plus Freundlich's keen sense of visual playfulness, "World Traveler" will satisfy audiences interested in an inward glimpse over explicit narrative.

For all the distance covered, the action is dreamily subdued and heavy on psychoanalytic symbolism, making this a road trip mainly for the art house instead of the "Animal House" crowd.

Crudup plays Cal, a New York architect living a seemingly idyllic life with his wife and young son. Cal abruptly abandons his family and hits the road in his deteriorating Volvo station wagon, seized by a discontent later described as a longing for some indefinable better life.

Fueled by well-chosen tunes from a master of the road song, Willie Nelson, "World Traveler" plays out in a series of uneasy encounters during Cal's westward wanderings.

Construction site

Working briefly on a construction site, Cal befriends, and mildly corrupts, an alter-ego named Carl (Cleavant Derricks), makes unrewarding advances to Carl's wife (Mary McCormack) and engages in a dalliance with a waitress (Karen Allen).

On the road again, Cal shares a breezy ride with a spirited hitchhiker (Liane Balaban) and gets an ugly comeuppance from an old classmate (James LeGros) he runs into at an airport.

At one of his many pit stops in roadside taverns, Cal hooks up with Dulcie (Moore), a troubled woman to whom he's initially drawn out of a need to perform a good deed to salve his own downward-spiraling soul. With Dulcie, though, Cal is faced with obligations that exceed his capacity for being a good Samaritan, leaving him the same choice that began his trip—sticking things out or abandonment.

His ramblings end in Oregon, at the home of his father (David Keith), where Cal finds direction toward the "better life" he seeks.

The cast is exceptional, bringing a palpable sense of everyday authenticity to the characters. Crudup and Moore especially capture the air of world-weary travelers worn down by the mileage of life yet still plowing onward.

JULIANNE Moore plays a troubled woman in the movie.

Dreams

Punctuating the voyage are dreams both waking and sleeping in which Cal is haunted by a figure critical to his reclamation. In the film's surreal psychological climax, Freundlich artfully retraces Cal's trek in a fantasy flying sequence that zeroes in on a beautiful nighttime image of the World Trade Center ("World Traveler" was completed well before the terrorist attacks, and the movie was screening at the Toronto International Film Festival the morning of Sept. 11, as the trade center crumbled).

Seven months after their destruction, the trade towers bring a new feeling of wistful yearning and reflection that nicely serves the themes of "World Traveler."

There are no great revelations in the film. Its ambiguous ending makes Cal's desires clear while leaving it to viewers to decide if he'll fulfill his wishes. With "World Traveler," as in the best of treks, it's not the destination that's important, but the journey itself.

"World Traveler," released by ThinkFilm, is rated R for language and some sexuality. Running time: 104 minutes. Three stars (out of four). *AP*

John Frankenheimer dies at 72

FRANKENHEIMER. His films dealt with pressing issues.

SAN FRANCISCO—Hollywood director John Frankenheimer, whose films included the 1960s hits "The Birdman of Alcatraz" and "The Manchurian Candidate," died on Saturday in Los Angeles. He was 72.

Frankenheimer died following a stroke at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he had undergone spinal surgery, his daughter Kristi Frankenheimer said.

Social dramas

Frankenheimer, a native of Malba, New York, also was an award-winning television director known for social dramas.

He won four consecutive Emmy Awards in the 1990s for the television movies "Against the Wall," "The Burning Season," "Andersonville," and "George Wallace," which also received a Golden Globe award.

In the 1960s, Frankenheimer's credits included the popular hits "The Birdman of Alcatraz," "The Manchurian Candidate," and "Seven Days in May."

"In his time, which I guess you'd say was the 1960s, Frankenheimer worked with the top writers, producers and actors in a series of films that dealt with issues that were just on top of the moment—things that were facing us all," movie critic Leonard Maltin told KNX radio in Los Angeles.

Expert on birds

"The Birdman of Alcatraz" starred Burt Lancaster and told the story of a convicted murderer who became an expert on birds while imprisoned at Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay.

"The Manchurian Candidate" was about a Korean War veteran who was brainwashed as a prisoner of war and programmed to kill a liberal politician.

"Seven Days in May" featured Lancaster as a US general plotting a coup.

Among Frankenheimer's other films were "Reindeer Games," "Ronin," "Grand Prix," "The Fixer," "Black Sunday," and "The French Connection II." Frankenheimer got his start making training films for the US Air Force. In 1953 he arrived in New York City and talked his way into an assistant director's job at CBS. *Reuters*

'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' restaged

By Gloria P. Sicam

I HAVE traded my huge feet and pointy ears for yellow ballet shoes, a hoop skirt and a face that looks like *balut*. I have gone from hopping around to moving like I have a major back problem. I have gone from wiggling my nose incessantly to growling and laughing in a sinister way. It's interesting—yet fun at the same time—going from good to evil...

Before you call your parish priest or local psychiatrist, I must explain that I'm part of the company of Trumpets' musical, 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.'

Mother Rabbit

I was part of the cast four years ago, as Mother Rabbit. Now, I'm an evil hag. And, as weird as it is to suddenly be supportive of the evil White Witch Jadis (I was trained very well the last time to be very much against her), it's been quite a lot of fun as well. But the fun doesn't come from being bad... it's getting to do the show again. And it's not the same show it was four years ago, either. All the changes make doing this run more exciting than before.

Besides my descent into evil, the set (still Mio Infante's design), isn't just a (deceptively) simple rake anymore. Because we like challenges, and because it looks really good, our stage isn't only an incline, the incline actually revolves now. So we not only have to contend with dancing and acting at angle, we also have to make sure we don't fall as the set is moving.

Second, the first-timers in Narnia (that's the place where all the adventures happen, the place beyond the wardrobe door, and therefore our nickname for the musical), are such a joy to watch! There's Roy Rolloda, who plays the faun Tumnus (alternating with the original Tumnus of four years ago, Carlo Orosa) with such heart and sincerity, he never fails to make me cry. In my opinion, Tumnus has one of the best songs in the play, and Roy never fails to give it exactly the right emotion to move us to tears.

There's Ana Liza Zialcita (alternating with the original, Sweet Plantado), who is both touching and funny as Mrs. Beaver. There's Meynard Peñalosa, who at six feet, five inches and with a booming voice was a shoo-in for Aslan the Lion (He shares the role with Audie Gemora, who is playing the role for the third time). It was hard not to cast him—he has the presence of someone who has the capacity to be fierce, but is gentle with the people around him.

White witch

And there's Carla Martinez, as the White Witch Jadis (she shares the role with Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, one of my favorite mentors) who is intense even when she isn't performing.

And of course, you have the new batch of kids. We always have to get new ones, they grow up so fast. Paolo Valenciano (yes, Gary V's son) and Franco Mabanta share the role of Peter, and they are the most eager and earnest young men, ready to take on a role that requires them to kill a wolf and become high king of a place they didn't believe in in the first place.

Crisel Consunji and Camille Cabrera are Susan, the hesitant mother-figure and *ate* to the brood. They sing the heck out of their songs. Alexa Ortega and Maureen Guese are adorable as the sweet, innocent Lucy. Watch out for their duet with the Susans, "Precious Gift", they will make your heart break. And Sam Concepcion (whom some of us call Audie Gemora Jr) and Iñaki Ting are impressive as Edmund, the brattiest and most ill-tempered of the four kids.

FROM left, Camille Cabrera, Paolo Valenciano, Moreen Guese and Sam Concepcion are the new kids in the Trumpets musical.

Creatures

Add to that a chorus of different creatures—elves, a squirrel, rabbits, unicorns, centaurs, giants, hags, ghouls, goblins, wolves! I have a co-actor who is so into being a ghoul he sounds like he's going to need asthma medicine after the scene!

The rehearsals have been brisk, under the watchful eye of director Jaime del Mundo. There were those days when our choreographer James Laforteza puts us through pain and suffering with our choreography, but it's all good—we welcome it! That's what musical theater is all about.

The players are not what's important here. If we do our job correctly, you will remember the story we are all trying to tell - a story of forgiveness, of how good will always triumph over evil, about sacrificing an innocent to save a sinner.

Message

Go ahead and be dazzled by the sets, the costumes, the performances and voices—but pay attention to the story and the message it's trying to get across. And the cast will be happy, knowing we've done our part.

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" runs from Aug. 2 to Sept. 15 at the Meralco Theater. The performance on Aug. 3 at 8 p.m. will benefit the pediatric asthma charity patients of the Philippine General Hospital. Call 0917-840-5669.

Directors' Cut filmfest in Bohol on July 16-19

By Edmund L. Sicam

NEW and recent films like Viva Films' "Magkapatid," "Regal Films' "Laman," Star Cinema's "Got to Believe in Magic." Hinabing Pangarap's "Batang Westside" and Jaggs Productions' "Kapalit" are just some of the works being screened at the Directors' Cut Film Festival in Bohol from July 16 to 19. The filmfest is one of the activities being planned for the 10-day celebration of "Sandugo sa Kalinaw," or the Bohol Eco-Cultural Fiesta for Global Peace and Understanding.

Blood compact

Sandugo commemorates the historic Blood Compact between Boholano chieftain Datu Sikatuna and the Spanish conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legazpi 437 years ago.

Hans Schoof, president of the Boholano-Foreign Friendship Foundation, says the festival should not just be a time for gaiety and merriment but also a celebration of values and dreams, concerns and aspirations, heritage, arts, culture and tourism.

Part of the filmfest is a roundtable discussion featuring directors Maryo J, delos Reyes, Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, Joel Lamangan, Mel Chionglo, Erik Matti, Lav Diaz, Olive Lamasan, Gil Portes and Boy Vinarao. Maryo J., who is from Bohol, spearheaded the effort to bring the filmfest to his home province. It was an idea that he discussed with Lutgardo Labad, executive director of the Boholano Foreign Friendship Foundation Inc.

Labad used to do musical scores for movies, many of them directed by the late Lino Brocka. Producers led by Regal's Mother Lily will join the filmfest. During the presscon for Sandugo, the Regal matriarch was very visible but preferred to stay in the sidelines and let Maryo J do the talking.

Other activities during the filmfest are an experimental short film festival featuring Carlitos Siguion-Reyna's "Payatas"; an international film and video fest sponsored by the different foreign cultural centers and the Sineklub of the CCP and films from Alliance Francaise, Goethe Institut, Japan Foundation, Australian Center and Instituto Cervantes.

Guitar festival

Aside from the filmfest, there will also be the First Philippine International Guitar Festival. Micahel Dadap, a Boholano guitar artist based in New York and conductor of the New York Children's Society Orchestra will perform in a Concert for Peace at the CPG Complex on July 21. Also performing are Bertholt and Gisela Lied, German guitarists.

They will be joined by Raul Manikan and Butch Roxas, Lester Demetillo of the UP Guitar Ensemble, Ruben Reyes and the UST Guitar Ensemble, Jo Valdes and the PWU Guitar Ensemble. Sitar player Joey Valenciano and Tabla drummer Charanjit Singh from India will also be featured. The musicians will conduct workshops and perform at different resorts at Alona Beach in Panglao.

Other events are performances of dance groups during the Sandugo street celebrations on July 17, a sea gallery sailboat regatta and visual arts festival from July 14 to 17, an international eco-cultural youth camp from July 14 to 21, and round table discussions on culture and peace on July 22.

What parents should do with PG rating on TV

By Ronald G. Mangubat

"*ANG susunod na palabas ay* rated PG"—so goes the daily warning on local television programs. This message elicits various knee-jerk reactions from parents. Some would sit with their children and interact with them while they are watching, others turn off their TV sets, while the rest ignore the warning and go on with what they are doing. However, there are parents who find themselves groping in the dark.

Responsibility

Exactly what kind of responsibility does a PG rating entail? How should parents guide their children when they are watching TV?

In order to appreciate the magnitude of parents' responsibility over their children's TV viewing habits, consider these figures:

The National Statistics Office reports that half of the population in the Philippines (about 32.3 million of the 68 million Filipinos) are below 18 years old. Around 60 percent of these youth live in urban areas where there is greater access to TV. Teenagers, according to a recent survey conducted by a top advertising agency, take in 30 hours of broadcast media weekly. This means that they spend more time watching TV than any other activity except sleeping.

What could be the worst scenario that could happen if children are not properly guided by what they see on television? Experts say that since children are not ready for ambiguities, and their concept of reality versus fantasy is not yet shaped, they could interpret everything that they see on the square box literally. As UP child psychologist Dr. Elizabeth Ventura says, "Children could accept everything hook, line and sinker."

Correlation

While skeptics continually argue about the correlation between TV violence and children's aggressive behavior, more than 1,000 studies and reviews attest to the fact that exposure to heavy doses of TV violence increases the likelihood of aggressive behavior, particularly in young males.

"Studies that go way back to the '60s are very clear—that a child can model aggressive behavior on TV," Doctor Ventura explains. "*Maaring hindi mag*-manifest *agad, pero mati*-trigger *'yan* later on."

According to Prof. John Murray of the School of Family Studies, Kansas State University, there are three ways in which TV sex and violence could affect children. First is the "direct affect" process which suggests that children (and even adults) who watch a lot of TV violence may become more aggressive and could develop attitudes and values favorable to the use of aggression to resolve conflicts.

Second is desensitization, which suggests that children could become less sensitive to the real world around them and even to the pain and suffering of others. They could be more willing to tolerate the ever-increasing levels of violence in our society.

Violence

Third, is the Mean World syndrome, which suggests that children or adults who watch a lot of violence on TV may begin to believe that the world is a mean and dangerous place to live in.

An internet source reveals that, In the United states, "The average child or teenager views 10,000 murders, rapes and aggravated assaults per year on TV."

While there's probably no existing counterpart of this figure in the Philippines, one simply has to scan TV images during primetime to be able to get a glimpse of the grave magnitude of sex and violence on local television. The list includes slapping scenes in telenovelas, images of murder, hostage-taking and kidnapping in breaking news items, explosions in cartoons, seduction and rape in local movies, and foul and offensive language even in variety shows.

How do parents explain those negative inputs to children? Some find themselves tongue-tied when children ask innocent questions. "*Di ako* aware *na katabi ko ang anak ko nung napanood ko ang* hostage-taking *sa* Pasay," recalls Renato, 33, a businessman in Quezon City, and father to five-year-old TJ. "*Nagulat na lang ako nung nagtanong siya ng, tatay, totoo ba 'yon? Sabi ko, oo, anak. Pero* bad *'yon*. That was the only thing I could say. *Na*-guilty *tuloy ako!*"

Ambiguity

A lot of doting moms and dads find themselves in a quandary when similar situations present themselves. Just like Jojie Cuenco, 28, a mother of three. She sighs, "I find it difficult to explain to my children the ambiguity of a situation. Sometimes, I just turn off the TV, *na lalo namang ipinagtataka ng mga bata. Sinasabi ko na lang, hindi para sa mga bata ang palabas.*"

"We always tell parents, if they cannot guide the children themselves, just don't let them watch TV anymore," says Dr. Ventura. "It's even more dangerous if they let other people like cousins or *yayas* do the guiding or monitoring for them."

In other countries, a technology known as the "V-chip" is now being used to enable parents to block out TV programs they don't want their children to watch. Since this is not being used in the Philippines, experts are appealing to parents.

The following 10 suggestions, from the National Association of Elementary School Principals in the United States, could also be addressed to Filipino parents who have young children:

1. Set an example. Don't leave the TV on all the time, even when you're eating or engaged in other activities. Select specific programs for information and entertainment, and don't watch "adult" programs when children are present.

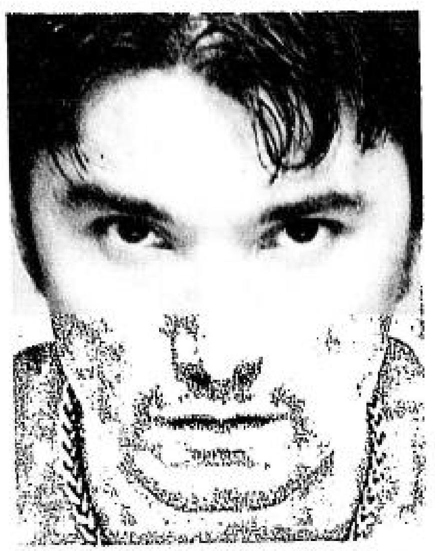
Babysitter

2. Don't use TV as a babysitter. Keep interesting items handy as an alternative to TV, such as jig-

WHAT/ C7

Albert Martinez plays another offbeat role in latest movie

By Edmund L. Sicam



MARTINEZ. Has played characters with no redeeming value.

ALBERT Martinez has never been one to shy away from portraying characters that aren't exactly... angels. He contemplates the characters he's played so far: "In 'Sidhi,' *talagang* no redeeming value *ang* character *na yun*, like my roles in 'Tatsulok,' and "Segurista" . . . *Ang pinaka may* redeeming value *lang na* character *na ginawa ko* so far is Rizal."

So, why should we be surprised that the role in his next movie "Ang Galing Galing Mo, Babes" where he co-stars with Joyce Jimenez is that of a callboy/dancer who lives in with prostitutes and sells them when he's too tired to work himself?

Challenge

Albert welcomes the challenge of playing characters like this: "I find bigger challenges with characters *na hindi* limited, offbeat, opposite from you. You can get away with so many things, compared to a straight, normal character."

Albert admits to being intrigued about playing a character who sells himself for money. "*Kaya ako* excited *doon sa* material, *kasi... ano ang mundo nila? Ano ba yung mundo ng tao na ang tama sa kanya mali sa iba?*"

This was something he couldn't understand until he interviewed people who were in these situations. "I met this guy, he's not very old . . . late 20s.

"And he's a DI, slash call boy. *Ang* lifestyle *niya, ganun*. But for him, *sabi niya*, it feeds my family... I was able to send my brother and sister to school. Feeling *niya, trabaho niya, parang* clerk, or doctor. *Kaya lang, iba yung* trade. So, *na*-realize *ko, sa kanila pala, hindi mali ang ginagawa nila*."

Obsession

Are the love scenes here more intense than the last movie he did with Joyce, "Scorpio Nights 2"? "'Scorpio' was about obsession. *Ito*, lust *lang*." Who lusts for whom? "It's both ways. *Siya*, prostitute from Japan, *ako naman*, macho dancer. We're both pros, we just do it for the money, and now you fall in love with someone who does the same thing. Is it falling in love or just lust?"

How does lust come in when prostitute *ang kasama mo*?"

He says of Joyce's character, "She wants to know the meaning of real love. *Kasi pumasok na siya sa* lust, *e. Hindi niya na*-realize *na* lust *pa rin ito, hindi pala* love. *E, ito nagkaroon siya ng* involvement. So *na*-overwhelm *siya*, and she decides to stay with me. *Kaya lang, hindi niya na*-realize *yung* pattern *ko* with relationships, *gagamitin ko sila*."

Did he have to do anything drastic to himself to play the role? "Well, physically *kailangan maging* similar to Carlos Agassi *yung* body *ko, para* believable. *Kasi kung hindi, paano naman ma*-iin-love *sa iyo ang* character *ni* Joyce *kung ang* physique *mo hindi* hunk? I also had to lose weight so I could look a little younger. *At balbas sarado ako*."

A different Joyce

It's been a long time since he's paired up with Joyce. Albert jokes, "Yeah... *akala ko nga di ko siya magiging* leading lady *kasi ang laki na niya*." But Albert generously says of his leading lady, "Joyce is different now. *Ang* feeling *ko*, I was working with an actress. The character wasn't tailor-made for her, it was written for somebody else, and then it landed on her lap. So she has to work within the character as written. But she delivered with flying colors!"

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What parents should . . .

From p. C6

saw puzzles, board games, crayons, pencils, paper, books and magazines.

3. Reject all other violent "media." Make it a family rule that violence has no place in your home, whether on videotapes, video games, radio programs, music lyrics, or reading materials.

4. Schedule daily activities. Teach your child to plan an after-school schedule in which TV fills only a small block of time—perhaps none!

5. Plan a weekly TV schedule. Sit down each week with your child and choose suitable children's and family programs from the weekly TV listings.

6. Use TV to teach. Children interpret what they see differently than adults. They may not be able to distinguish fiction from fact, and something you think is funny may terrify a child. Therefore, it's a good ideas to watch programs with your child and explain the difference between news and entertainment, reality and make-believe, education and exploitation. Discuss programs with your children and compare your family values with those shown on TV.

7. Keep an eye on the tube. Locate the family in a central location where you can monitor who is watching what.

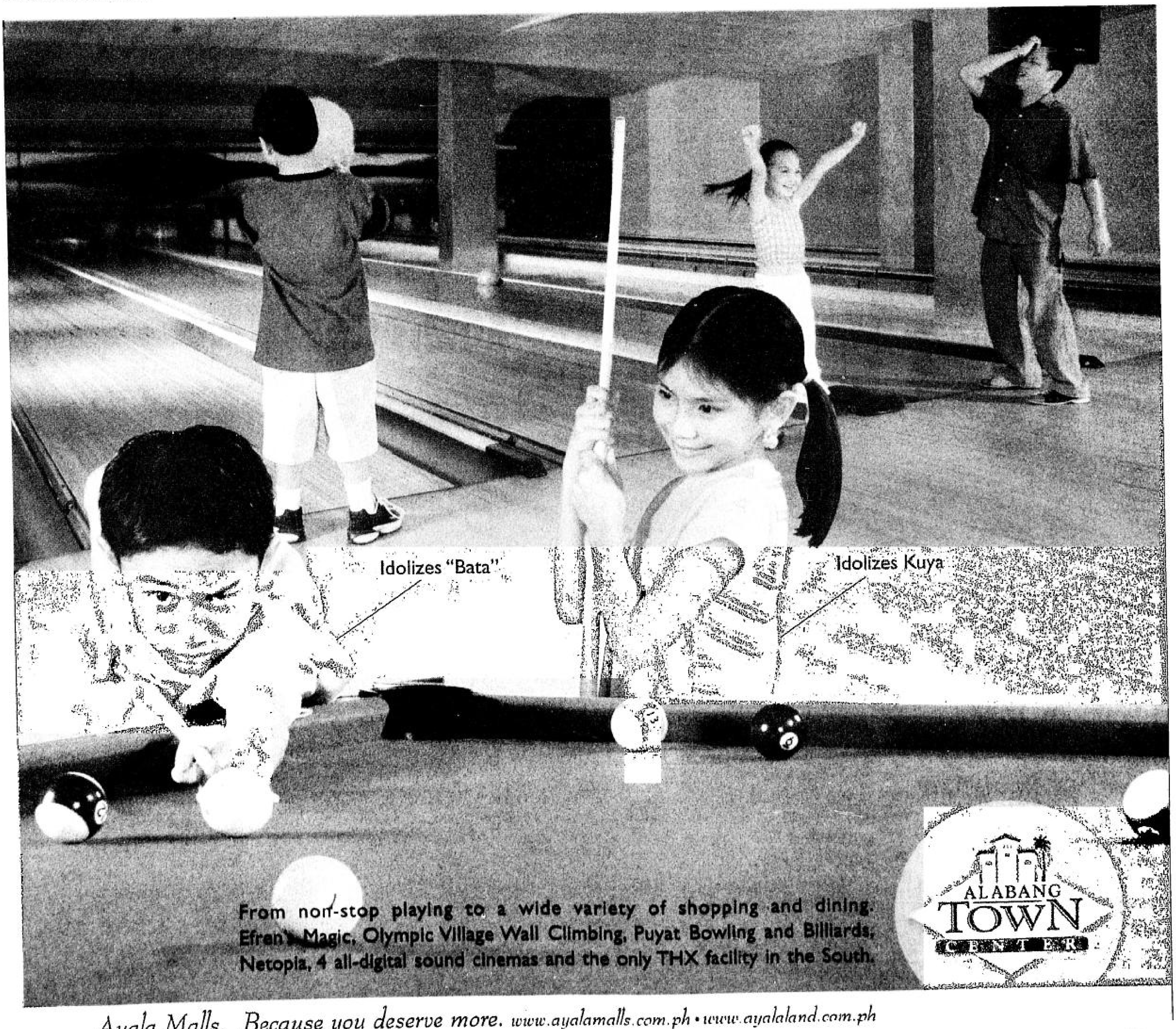
Other activities

8. Encourage other activities. You can reduce TV time by requiring or promoting other at-home activities such as exercise, hobbies, crafts, reading, etc.

9. Look for good TV. There are fine programs on television that you can watch with your children, including concerts, plays, sports events, nature and wildlife shows, animated films and movies suitable for children.

10. Join forces to oppose TV violence. Cooperate with other teachers and parents in efforts to reduce TV violence by writing or calling local and television officials, government regulatory agencies, and congressional leaders. Let them know that you are concerned about TV violence and advocate the development of quality programs for children.

There are no hard and fast rules in parental guidance, just as there is no guaranteed magic formula for raising children. Television, as Dr. Ventura, says, can be a good venue for children to know the realities of life. But for them to be able to do so, parents' role and responsibility to teach, interpret and explain what their children see on TV are of utmost importance.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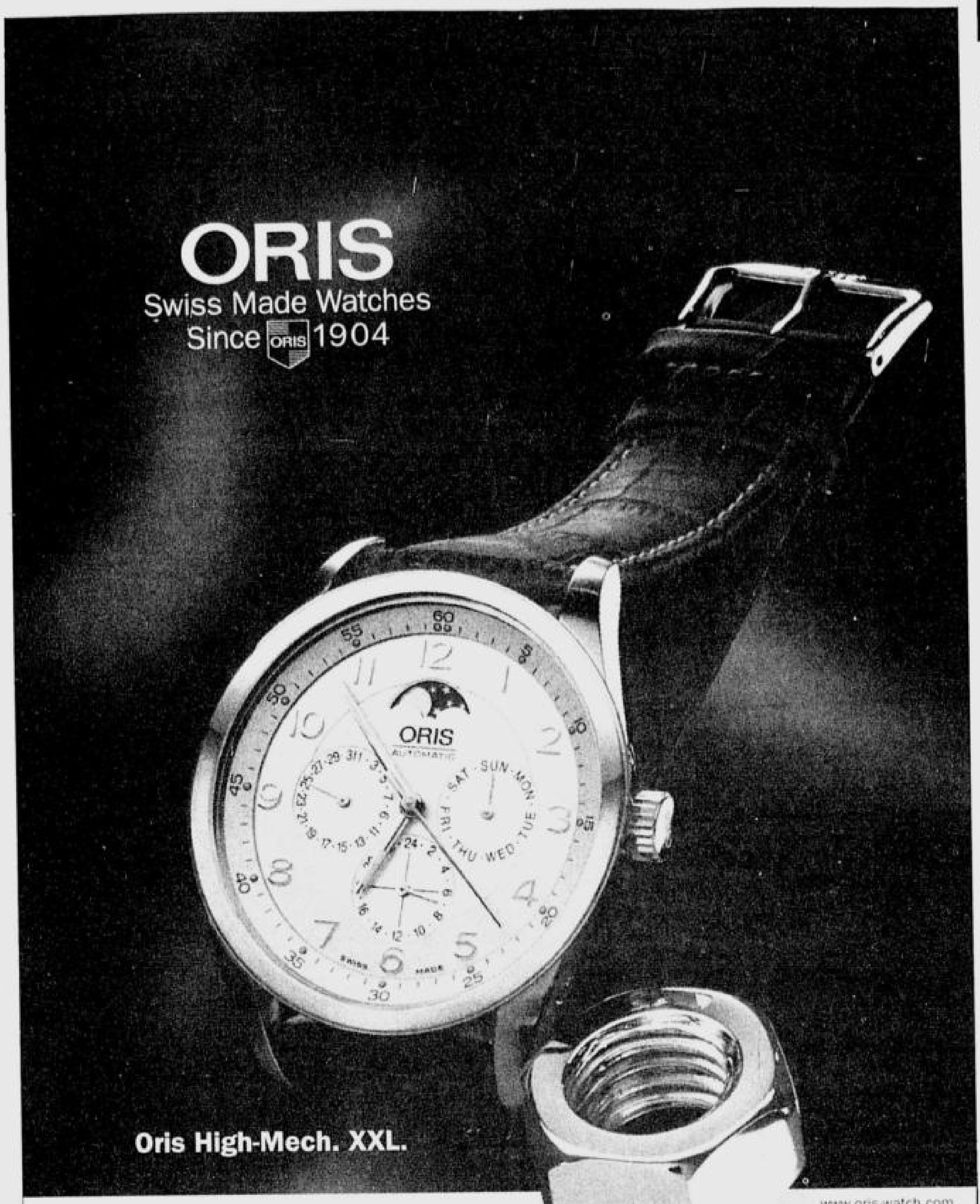

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Steven Spielberg comes of age

JUST when you thought it was time for Steven Spielberg to ease up, the most popular moviemaker of all time is going in new directions at a storming pace.

Cyber-cops

The man who made "Jaws," "E.T.," the "Indiana Jones" trilogy, "Schindler's List," "Saving Private Ryan" and more has come out with his first crime thriller, "Minority Report." Starring Tom Cruise, it's a futuristic suspense tale in which cyber-cops arrest people before they commit murder.

In addition, Spielberg is putting the finishing touches on "Catch Me if You Can," a real-life crime caper headlined by Tom Hanks and Leonardo DiCaprio. And then there's a fourth Indiana Jones flick in the works!

On top of it all, Spielberg took time to sit down to talk about how he's a hands-on dad to his small "nation" of kids and what the future holds.

SPIELBERG discusses a scene with Tom Cruise.

How did you try to make the "Minority Report" world unique?

I did something kind of different with this particular future, and that is I threw it away. I didn't celebrate it; I didn't dwell on the toys and the Sharper Image catalogue devices that will all be available to us in 52 years.

You and Tom Cruise have been looking for something to do together for many years. What was it like to finally work with him?

It's like working with Kobe Bryant. I sometimes felt like Phil Jackson working with him...like a coach. I only need to give Tom some minor suggested adjustments, and he immediately gets it, goes with it and turns over another take that is even more interesting.

Amazing person

He's an amazing person to watch work. And I don't know if he does it with every movie he makes, but for "Minority Report," he brought one person on the set with him— a guy with a cappuccino stand.

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MONTANO. Won't be home for his birthday.

Cesar Montano starts shooting 'The Great Raid'

By Remy M. Umerez

EVERY Filipino actor dreams of invading Hollywood. Action star Cesar Montano is halfway through achieving his dream. He is now in the Australian Gold Coast shooting "The Great Raid."

To clinch the role of a guerilla leader named Juan Pantoja the actor, best remembered for big-budgeted local movies like "Jose Rizal" "Muro Ami" and " Bagong Buwan," had to audition three times.

Kilometric lines

One audition required Cesar to memorize a three-page script, which proved not too difficult for the actor since in the movie "Rizal," he recited kilometric lines in Spanish.

The DVD of "Muro Ami" with English subtitles was sent to Miramax along with a complete resumé for the director to better assess Cesar's strength as an actor.

In a way, his star status as one of the country's leading action stars also contributed to his bagging the coveted role.

"The Great Raid" is based on the novel by Hamton Side, "Ghost Soldiers," a bestseller last year in the United States. It deals with American prisoners of war and how they were rescued from the Japanese in a rescue operation headed by Benjamin Bratt and Montano.

The war movie is directed by John Dahl, whose film credits include "Joyride," a suspense thriller.

Fourth billing

Hollywood actors Bratt, better known as the ex-boyfriend of Julia Roberts, Ethan Hawke ("Pearl Harbor") and Joaquin Phoenix ("Gladiator") are in the cast of the $90-million production produced by Miramax and distributed by Warner Brothers. Montano gets fourth billing plus a talent fee that is much higher than what he commands from local producers.

The role of a nurse named Margaret Jansen, a socialite from New York, has yet to be filled. Among the actresses being considered for the role is Michelle Pfiffer.

"The Great Raid" has a Philippine setting but unfortunately, the location shooting could not be done here. Parts of Cabanatuan City and Bataan (where the Death March happened) are being rebuilt in the Gold Coast. For the Chinatown sequences, the production unit chose to shoot in Shanghai.

For two weeks, the entire cast had to undergo camp training to achieve the physical look and the feel of the World War II film.

Discipline

In the email that Cesar sent, the actor said discipline was needed to undergo the training. He said that no means of communications were allowed during the entire training period, so they were totally isolated. He lost some pounds and if the training had been extended, he would have looked like a POW already. He missed his wife and children and said this was the longest period of time he was separated from his family.

Principal photography for "The Great Raid" began July 9 and Cesar's role would require 18 straight shooting days. The highlights of his role are his scenes with Benjamin Bratt, who plays a captain from West Point whose methods used in war survival differ from Montano's "old-fashioned" devices.

It is certain that Cesar won't be home to celebrate his birthday on Aug. 1. Chances are, his wife Sunshine and his manager Norma Japitana will join him on the Gold Coast and possibly do a show for the Filipino communities in Sydney. Their presence will definitely add joy to what Cesar describes as "a fruitful experience overshadowed by loneliness."

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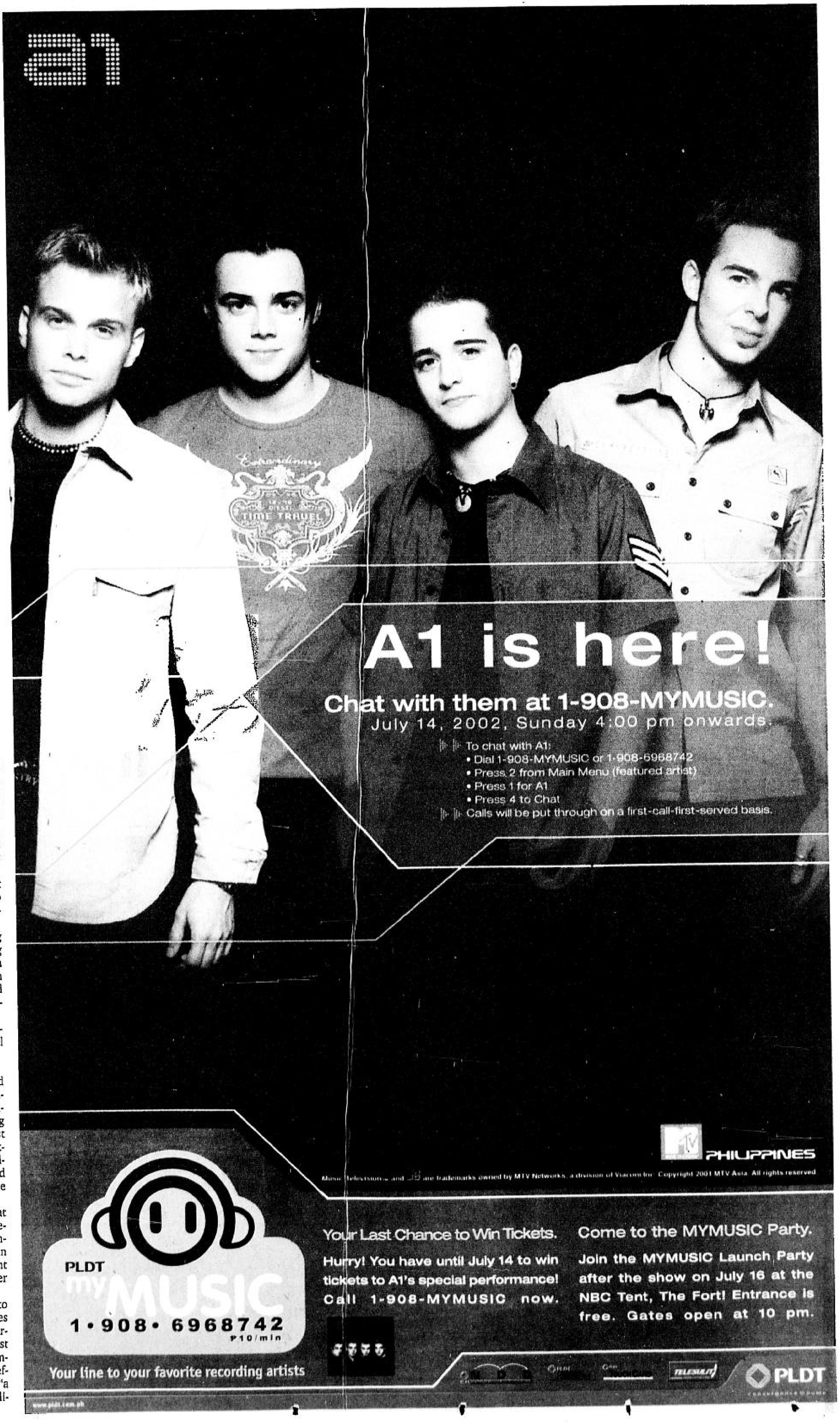

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Movie stars as TV hosts

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AS local movies continue to languish, film stars have been compelled to "sleep with the enemy"—namely, find work in the movies' top competition, television. Most of them act regularly on soaps or sitcoms, or guest in various shows.

But a growing number have become TV hosts—Janice de Belen and Richard Gomez on "S-Files," Kris Aquino on "The Buzz," Janice and her sister Gelli de Belen on "Sis," Rosanna Roces on " Startalk," and any number of stars on the noontime variety shows of Channels 2 and 7.

The fact that movie stars now host show biz talk-variety programs further blurs the dividing line between show business and the show biz media. Quite often these days, the star-host becomes the controversial newsmaker himself, so his show's objectivity is further compromised.

Another problem is the fact that show biz people are supposed to stick together, but the star-host is sometimes required to ask hard questions of their fellow stars, thus putting them on the spot.

How do the star-hosts handle this pushme-pullyou conundrum? Simply by wearing their two hats in dizzying alternation. Still, the occasionally contradictory stances they have to take are confusing, to say the least.

On the plus side, the star-hosts' knowledge of show business and the contacts they've made in the biz opens doors for them. Even better, their star-friends feel comfortable with them and open up more than they would to strictly-business media people.

On the *other* hand, some stars criticize the star-hosts for their regular stints on TV. To them, this is a demotion because, instead of making the news, the star-hosts are merely reporting or covering it.

Still, as long as the star-hosts' star value can boost a program's ratings, you can bet that TV producers will continue to be on the lookout for other popular stars who are vulnerable to the blandishments of television with the regular exposure and income that it offers. And that more stars will happily allow themselves to be seduced into biting TV's juicy and now not-so-forbidden apple.

Meet Vanessa Carlton

Vanessa Carlton is on the verge of global singing stardom. Her signature song, "A. Thousand Miles," is soaring up the music charts, its music video rating frequent airplay on MTV.

This early, Vanessa has been included in Rolling Stone magazine's list of Top 10 Artists to Watch in 2002. She is described as "a more pop-oriented Fiona Apple" with keyboard skills, rich voicing, and harmonies reminiscent of Tori Amos.

Born and raised in Milford, Pennsylvania, Vanessa grew up with music in their house. Her mother, a piano teacher, exposed her to a variety of composers, including Satie, Mendelsohn and Debussy. Under her tutelage, Vanessa developed a versatile style. She wrote her first composition when she was only eight years old.

'Forevermore' clicks with viewers

"Forevermore," starring the love team of Jericho Rosales and Kristine Hermosa, grossed more than P6 million on its opening day. The movie is set in a hacienda planted to mango trees which are believed to bear sweet fruit only when nourished by the love of a young couple. Nestor de Villa and Michelle Bayle play second-lead roles.

Three books launched

The UP Creative Writing Center in cooperation with the UP College of Arts and Letters and Vargas Museum launched three books by contemporary poets in Filipino last July 12.

"Apokripos" by Jerry Arcega-Gracio contains meditative pieces of mostly confessional poetry.

CARLTON. Versatile singer.

Man's constant struggle with God is the main theme of the book.

A multi-awarded writer, Gracio also writes scripts for movies and television. He won the Grand Prize in the 1999 Film Development Foundation of the Philippines Scriptwriting Contest for his screenplay "Santa-Santita," which will soon be filmed by Laurice Guillen.

Mesandel Virtusio Arguelles, two-time winner of Gawad Komisyon sa Tula, comes up with his first poetry collection, "Menos Kuwarto." Arguelles is noted for his lyricism, combining traditional Filipino poetic forms with a wide-range of Asian and Western literary influences.

"ZALLY AND ME." Showing on the Hallmark Channel at 9 p.m. tomorrow.

With "Samsara," his third book, Allan Popa proves that he is one of the brightest voices in contemporary Filipino poetry. His first book, "Hunos" (Artista Publications, 2002), shows him a master of form and language, while "Morpo" (Collective Axis, 2001) features his ability to translate his poetic vision into brilliant poetry.

"Apokripos" and "Menos Kuwarto" are both published by The Pithaya Press while "Samsara" is published by the Amado V. Hernandez Resource Center and High Chair.

Gala premiere

At 7 p.m. today at SM Megamall, "Men in Black II" will have its gala premiere. The sequel is a certified hit in the States. In it, secret agents Jay (Will Smith) and Kay (Tommy Lee Jones) are reteamed against a sinister seductress (Lara Flynn Boyle) who mounts the toughest challenge to date to the MIB's mission of protecting the earth frotm the alien scum of the universe. The movie starts its regular run in Metro Manila on July 17.

Boxers' schedule

Gladys and the Boxers with K performs regularly this month at Soundstage Marcos Highway (Tuesdays), Kampo West Avenue (Wednesdays and Saturdays) and Ratsky's Malate (Saturdays).

Special performances: on July 15 at Klownz on Quezon ave. corner Delta together with the Sex Bomb Dancers, and on July 19 and 26 at 49'ers Music Lounge on Leon Guinto, Malate.

The musical-comedy group's members are Gladys Guevarra, Kakai Brosas, Daniel Lardizabal and Cris Samonte.

'Zally and Me'

The Hallmark Channel's "Sunday Night Big Movies" cinema showcase is screening "Zelly adn Me" at 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 14. The film is a touching drama about an orpahned girl torn between a love that destroys and a love that endures.

It stars Joe Morton, Glynis Johns, Alexandra Johnes, Isabella Rosselini and David Lynch.

Claudine Barretto in birthday special

By Edmund L. Sicam

CLAUDINE Barretto is celebrating her birthday at the Folk Arts Theater with a birthday special titled "The Journey of My Heart" on July 19 at 7 p.m., with a delayed telecast on ABS-CBN at 9 p.m. Her birthday falls on July 20. It is also her 10th year in show biz, so there truly is a lot to celebrate.

Claudine explains why the show is called a journey: "I'm turning 23, but I feel like I'm turning 45 *dahil sa mga pinagdaanan ko*. It really was a journey. I'd like to believe I'm much better. But it's still there.

"Now comes the hard part. Before, I could just sit and grieve, but now it's time to move on."

Memories

Claudine admits she still can't go home to her condo, where there are still too many memories of Rico Yan, and yet, she won't sell the condo unit.

BARRETTO. Time to move on.

While she's been able to go back to places like their favorite restaurant and their favorite place to have coffee (and she plans to visit Dos Palmas soon), Claudine says, "I'm very scared to get into a relationship right now, because Rico's pictures are still all over my house. It's like he's so alive." She hasn't even put away any of Rico's things. When she has someone else, maybe, she'll put them away. But right now, he's still very much a part of her life.

Claudine's birthday wish is really simple: "Peace of mind. *Sana tuloy-tuloy na*. And to be able to accept and let go and heal gracefully. And, above all, to forgive the people *na may mga masasakit na nagawa sa akin*, and at the same time be forgiven, *kung may tao akong nasaktan*."

Forgiveness

Apparently, Claudine has a lot of forgiving to do. She shares she had some anger, and it came from the selfish reason of not being able to see Rico after he died. At the same time, Claudine muses, "But then, I realized that I was given four years—and during those four years, almost every single day, I was with Rico. So, I think I should be thankful *na*."

Bicol shoot

In spite of all these trials—or rather, because of them—Claudine found the time to do a movie for Star Cinema with Aga Muhlach, which was shot all over Bicol. "I'm happy for this movie with Aga because when we started shooting, we were all walking on eggs, *kasi bago pa lang*, but I chose to work right away. Then we went to Bicol, and it was a great experience, because it was very quiet and the people were very warm. When I went to Bicol, we'd shoot from 7 a.m. until 5 *lang ng hapon*... and the rest of the day, we'd stay at the resthouse...

"Aga and I would go island hopping after shooting, and we'd talk. We'd see Mayon, and everything.... *Doon, naka*-relax *ako*. It helped me a lot *talaga*."

What are the lessons she's learned?

CLAUDINE/ p. D5

Baron Geisler and Dennis Trillo are hardworking and promising

By Jocelyn Valle

IT was his birthday party, thrown by his clothing sponsor, Harvard Jeans, and Baron Geisler tried to fight off jet lag and exhaustion. He had just fulfilled performing commitments in the US along with other ABS-CBN talents.

Competitive

Just like today's crop of promising stars who are hardworking, driven and competitive, Baron felt he couldn't afford to miss a day at work. That's why at 20, the Star Circle, Batch 5 member has built up an impressive resumé.

Aside from TV, Baron is also in the cast of Star Cinema's "Jologs," where he has an interesting role.

Dennis Trillo of Star Circle, Batch 10 never really thought of joining the biz.

After all, he is a college graduate, with a diploma in International Studies from Mirriam College. He even got to work in a senator's office and in a telecom company as a customer care officer.

TRILLO. Film buff.

Dennis could have just helped his father manage their family businesses, but he felt fulfillment lay somewhere else. It seems like he's found it in the entertainment world, where it is possible to combine all of his interests.

Music, for instance. Dennis proudly shares that he can sing, play the drums and the guitar.

Collector

He's also an avid collector of CDs, VCDs and DVDs. The latter alone total a hundred. His favorites are movies by Martin Scorsese (specially his collaborations with Robert de Niro like "Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull") and Stanley Kubrick.

Dennis' friends in high school got him interested in films and filmmaking. But now that he's in show business, he grins, he's realized that he likes acting, too.

To date, he's only had a few acting gigs. In an episode of "Maala-ala Mo Kaya," with Aiza Seguerra and Matet de Leon, Dennis was featured in only two scenes, but he managed to impress viewers even without any speaking lines.

He's thankful to be in the cast of Channel 2's youth-oriented series, "K2BU" (Saturdays, 3:30 p.m.). He plays Kobe, who's involved with one of the show's main characters, AJ (played by another newcomer, Angelene Aguilar).

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JULY 13 - JULY 19

CH	2	4	5	7	9	[illegible]	23	29	13
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Smart Ka Na Ba? 7:30 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Mary d' Potter 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	3:00 Value Vision 6:00 MBA 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night *Trouble with Spies*	5:30 Hunter X Hunter 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster *Ang Kuya Kong Siga* 11:00 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Mr. Nice Guy*	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game2 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Women of.. 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Paninindigan sa Plaza Miranda 7:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *Chasers*	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:00 Txtrs 5 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *The Peacekeeper* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Get Away* 11:00 Road Trip 11:30 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Rugrats 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Temptation Island 10:30 Twilight Zone	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Original Special 8:00 Rankof All Times 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	4:00 PBL 6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 PBL	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Two	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Worlds Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 DAR 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Greatest Fights 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	5:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Celebrity Adventures 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fora Medica 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 E.R 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 NBI Files	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 PBA Games 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Popular 8:30 Angel 9:00 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Whattamen 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Private Conversation	5:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Saklolo Abogado 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 That's 70's Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Higher Ground 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Fugitive 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 Wrestling	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 S.A.T.S.U. 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Behind the Music 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Scariest Places on Earth 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The District 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	4:00 Value Vision 5:00 Patrol 117 6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Daboy en Da Girl 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate w/ Mare and Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight	6:00 Carita de Angel 8:00 PBA Games 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire 10:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 11:00 IBC News	5:30 MYX Concerts 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Barkada Nights 9:30 Night Visions 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Ups 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 The Working President 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 PBL	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Thats Life 8:00 Malcolm In The Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats On Friday *Gary V By Request 2*	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 PBA Provincial Game 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire 10:00 Bilyaran Na 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Halo-Halo 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Exposed 8:30 Survivor 9:00 Oh Grow Up!! 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman

Alma Moreno makes a comeback in 'Kapalit?'

By Edmund L. Sicam

AFTER disappearing for quite some time from the big screen, Alma Moreno is staging a comeback with the movie, "Kapalit?." What made her decide to come back? "*Unang una, kailangan, e,*" she laughs heartily. But seriously. "One reason, therapy." Because of her personal problems? Alma nods. "*Kasi ako pag ganoon, gusto ko* busy *ako. At siyempre, iba yung may sarili akong kinikita.*"

Out of practice?

Does she feel that she's out of practice because she's been gone for so long? "*Hindi, kasi mabait ang panginoon. Kasi pag nangyari ito, payat ako. Hindi ko naman sinabi na bumalik na yung dati, pero ...*

"*Sa pag-arte siguro, nandoon yung kaba kasi matagal na, lalo na itong* 'Kapalit?,' *talagang seryoso... tapos, si direk* Mel Chonglo *pa. Pero sa suporta ng mga artista namin, sila* Victor Neri, *si* Jay Manalo, *si* Tita Boots Anson Roa, *tapos nandoon pa si direk* Mel Chonglo... *talagang tinulungan nila ako.*"

Rebecca, Alma's character, is a woman who believes she's been happily married to Edwin, played by Victor Neri, for the past nine years. But after a tragic accident, she finds out that Edwin has had a lover all this time. Edwin's lover has a husband, whom Rebecca ends up meeting and getting close to, as well. Are there just a wee bit too many similarities to Alma's life?

"*Hindi natin maaalis yan.* Expected *ko na yun , na sasabihin nila, istorya ng buhay namin ni* Joey, *nangyari sa akin. Sa totoo lang, hindi. Nagkataon lang na* timing *lang na para sa akin. Pero yung istorya na yan, ginawa nila, wala sa isip nila na ako yun. Panoorin nalang*

ALMA/ p. D5

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ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Stanley Kauffmann shares his love for movies with readers

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

AS Jun Kim of "PopMatters" points out, Mr. Stanley Kauffmann is a member of the "venerable generation of American film critics who came to prominence during the 1960s, riding on a New Wave of films made by groundbreaking French filmmakers, many of whom were themselves once critics like Truffaut and Godard."

Advent

Kauffmann may not agree with Kim's description of them "riding on a wave," but it is a fact that his rise in the field of film criticism did coincide with the advent of the French New Wave and the growing strength of international cinema. Other prominent critics at that time included Pauline Kael and Andrew Sarris.

Thus we find in this collection several detailed discussions of the films of Francois Truffaut and Jean-Luc Godard, as well as the lesser-known Philippe de Broca and Alain Jessua. Space is also given to Kaufmann's thoughts on the works of Fellini, Ingmar Bergman, Satyajit Ray, and Akira Kurosawa.

"A World on Film" is divided into specific subjects (e.g. spectacles, actors, adaptations), countries and their respective film directors, and political and cinematic events.

Erudition

Kauffmann's cultured and knowledgeable voice resonates throughout this book's pages. He doesn't flaunt his erudition but invites us instead to share a chuckle or two over a cinematic boo-boo, or even to disagree with his views—politely, of course!

John Simon of the Los Angeles Times calls him "a master of the felicitous phrase and memorable characterization." See, for example, his assessment of Stanley Kubrick's "Dr. Strangelove: "It is so truthful a film, so unsparing, so hopeless in the last pit-bottom depths of that word, that the very blackness has a kind of shine.

"It is to the vestige or promise of the Olympian in us that it speaks, and it is that possibly saving remnant in us that it makes laugh."

Description

We also found memorable his description of actor Burl Ives ("Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"): "Like Napoleon's army, he has traveled on his stomach. His performance, like his theatrical person and like Williams' play, is imposing bulk without much content."

With his seemingly laid-back style, Kauffmann manages to be highly informative and insightful, alerting us to many things we might have missed in a particular film or a director's entire oeuvre. Take for example "The Greatest Story Ever Told," which we just happened to watch this summer (along with all the other religious films that keep being replayed every Holy Week). We didn't really like it, but we thought it not too bad until Kauffmann convinced us otherwise:

"To suit the syrup-dimmed eye that envisioned this film," he wrote, "the pace is funereal (this is to be taken synonymously with 'religious'), the acting is generally adenoidal and sententious.

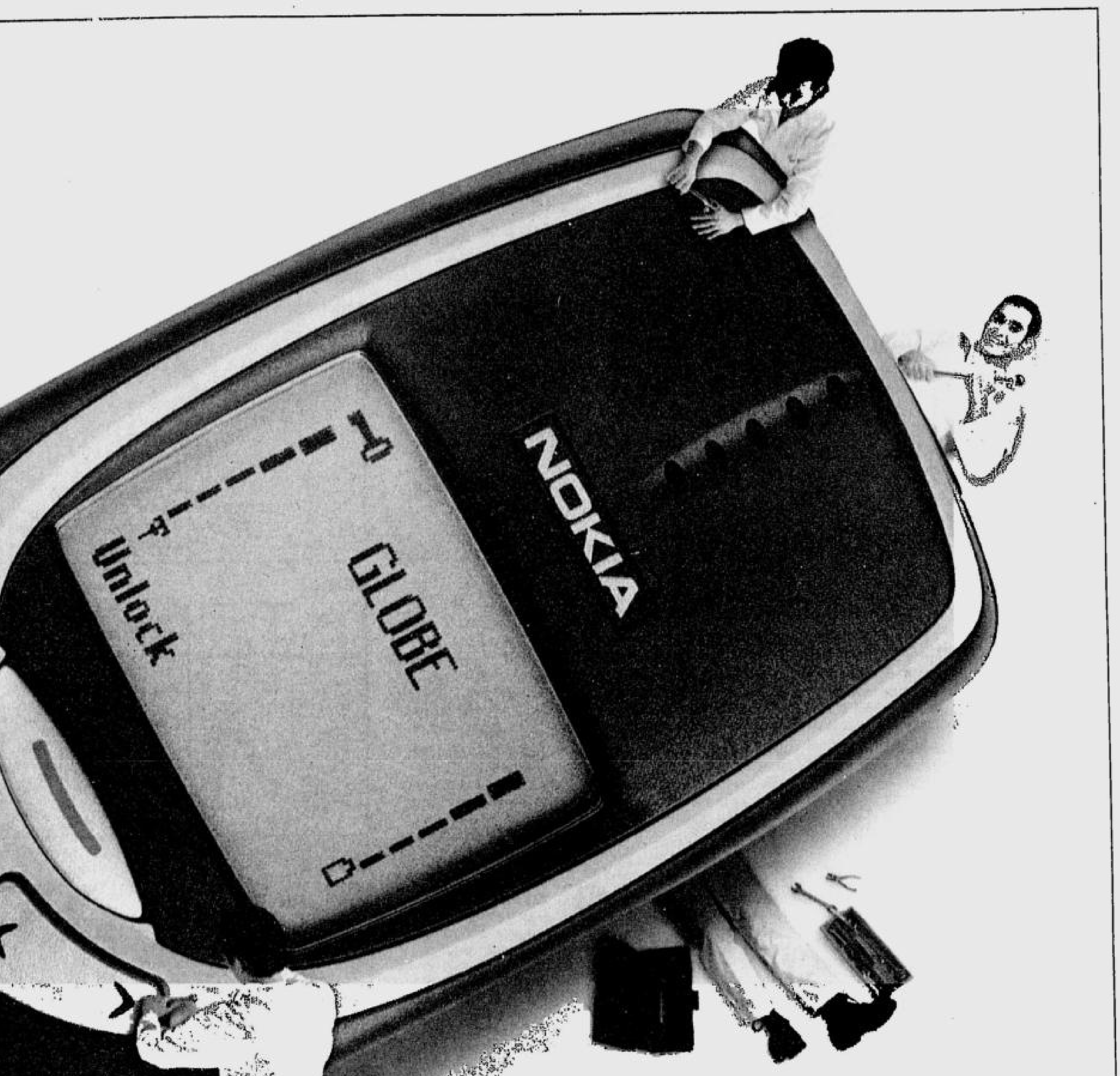
"Most of these characters seem aware that they are in the Greatest Story. Here, we feel, is a Baptist with a nice camera sense, a Pilate who washes his hands because the Gospels recorded it and he must fulfill the prescription."

Colorful comments

When he does like a film, his comments are equally colorful, as in his description of Harold Pinter's "The Guest" ("It is a fascinating, funny, eerie film, a work of murky evocations boiling out of grubby naturalistic minutiae.").

Another thing we appreciate in Kauffmann's criticism is his refusal to treat his readers like lesser beings, as other critics sometimes do. Respect for his readership is manifested in his thorough explanation and defense of his opinions, both good and bad, and in the absence of doublespeak and circular thinking in his pieces.

Stanley Kauffmann has been an independent voice in film criticism for decades, championing both the spectacle (or blockbuster, as we know it) and the 93-minute little gem of a film. "A World on Film" is only one of the many collections of his criticism, but it is a very good representation of his skill and perception.



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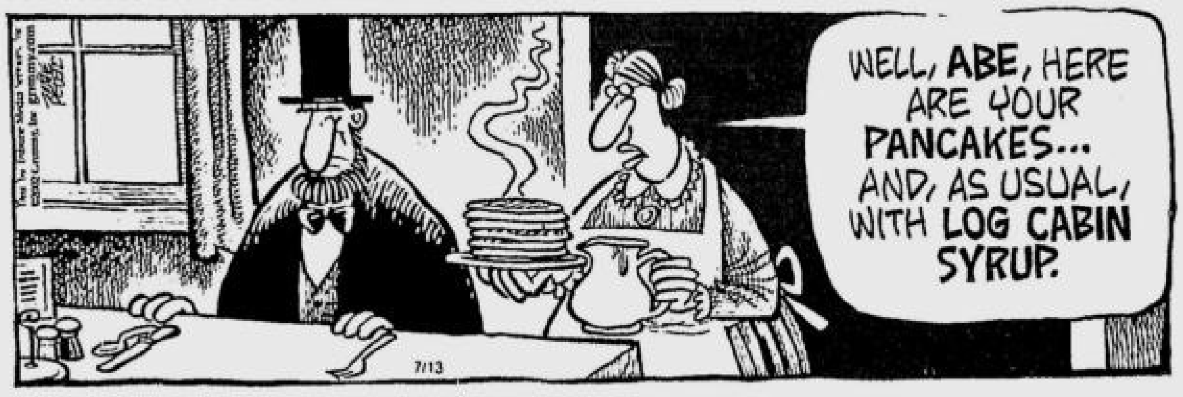
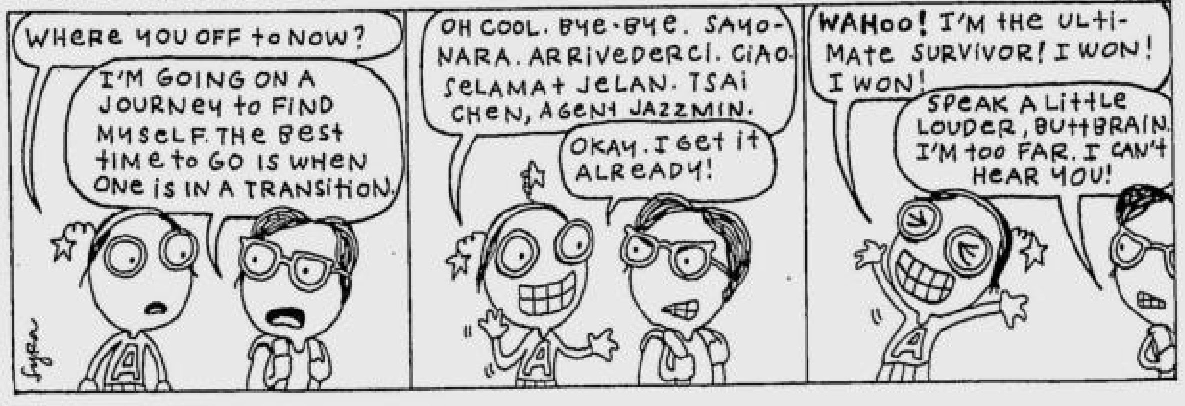
BY MIKE PETERS


WELL, ABE, HERE ARE YOUR PANCAKES... AND, AS USUAL, WITH LOG CABIN SYRUP.
7/13

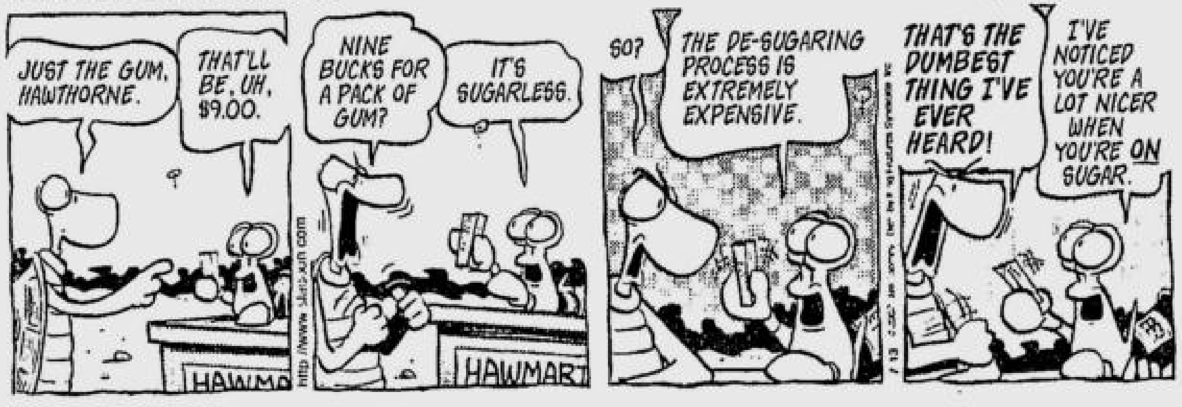
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Where you off to Now?
I'M GOING ON A JOURNEY to FIND MYSELF. The Best time to GO IS WHEN ONE IS IN A TRANSITION.
OH COOL. BYE-BYE. SAYONARA. ARRIVEDERCI. CIAO. SELAMAT JELAN. TSAI CHEN, AGENT JAZZMIN.
OKAY. I GET IT ALREADY!
WAHOO! I'M the ULTIMATE SURVIVOR! I WON! I WON!
SPEAK A LITTLE LOUDER, BUTTBRAIN. I'M too FAR. I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
Lyra

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


JUST THE GUM, HAWTHORNE.
THAT'LL BE, UH, $9.00.
NINE BUCKS FOR A PACK OF GUM?
IT'S SUGARLESS.
SO?
THE DE-SUGARING PROCESS IS EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE.
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I'VE NOTICED YOU'RE A LOT NICER WHEN YOU'RE ON SUGAR.
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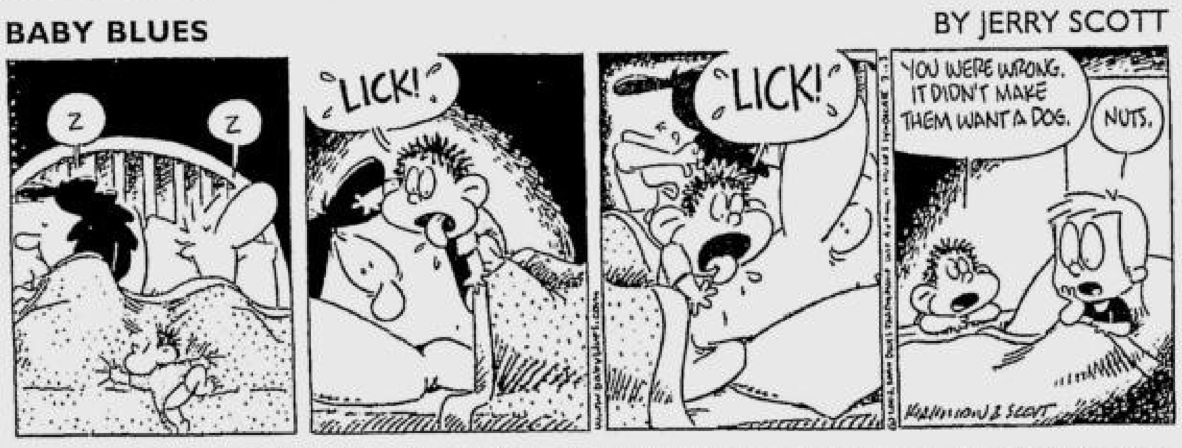
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


Z
Z
LICK!
LICK!
YOU WERE WRONG. IT DIDN'T MAKE THEM WANT A DOG.
NUTS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cheech Marin, Harrison Ford, Mark Mendoza, Patrick Stewart

Happy Birthday: You'll want too much too fast and must discover how to sit back and learn the ropes first. Your vision will be broad when it comes to your career objectives, but keep in mind that you can't start at the top. Your ability to intuitively understand your friends will help you form solid partnerships this year. Your numbers are 3, 7, 19, 28, 36, 37, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The best thing you can do is to get fit and prepare to be and do your best. Competitive sports or anything that challenges you should be on your agenda. You'll be hard to defeat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Traveling will result in added knowledge and inspiration that will help spark some innovative ideas. Good connections can be made at the places you visit or the talks you attend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will want to avoid any sort of dispute with loved ones today. Someone may be acting strange or giving you the cold shoulder.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Entertainment or group activities will promote new love relationships if you're single, and friendships if you're not. The people you meet will be intrigued by your knowledge and your excellent memory.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It may be time to take a more practical approach to your livelihood and start to do what you know you can do best. Don't let someone hold you back.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's time to spice up your life and your looks. You should concentrate on enhancing your appeal today. Don't let emotional matters drag you down. Get involved in something you believe in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone may be trying to undermine you today. Don't be too quick to let others know what you're up to. It's time to let go of people and situations that have not been good for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can help out an organization you believe in and feel good about yourself while helping a worthy cause. The interaction with new people will do you good.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful what you say. You will find yourself in the center of a misunderstanding if you exaggerated about something or have been evading issues. Emotional matters must be dealt with quickly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get on a plane, boat, train or in your car and take off. You need some new scenery and excitement. The more you can do to expand your outlook, the better.

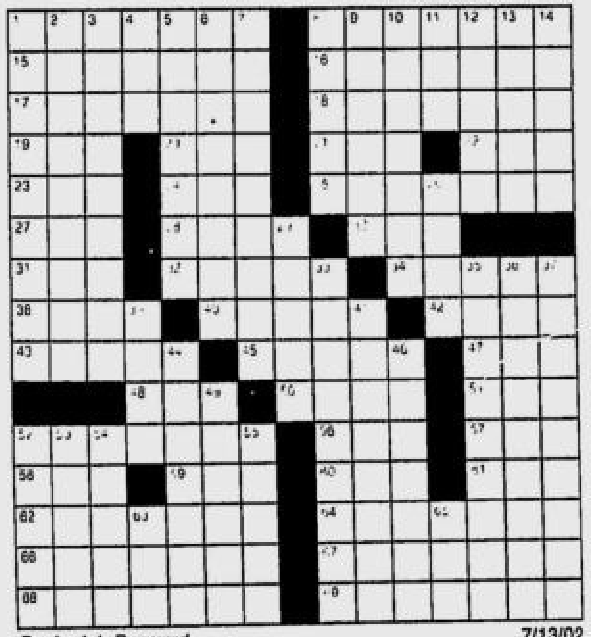
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take time to help someone who isn't capable of doing for himself. Your kind gesture will be appreciated and you will receive valuable information from this person in return.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be in a friendly mood and will enjoy sharing some of your thoughts with the right person. This is the perfect day to start a new relationship or rekindle the one you're in.

Birthday Baby: You will be flexible by nature and will always look at all sides of an issue. You will have an intense curiosity about everything, and sometimes you will do things just to find out why you shouldn't.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

7/13/02

ACROSS
1 Series of quick, light steps
8 Scottish royal family
15 Benzene derivative
16 Water pipe
17 Mourns
18 Love of Theseus
19 Jurist Fortas
20 Baby fox
21 Gridiron zebra
22 Precious stone
23 Seixas or Damone
24 Psychic's ability
25 Superior skill
27 Building wing
28 Pass over
30 Unrefined mineral
31 __ Grande
32 Like many showers
34 Mediterranean republic
38 Imprint clearly
40 Gift recipient
42 Marsh grass
43 Raised causeways
45 After-shower powders
47 Grippe
48 Much removed
50 Recent
51 __ Aviv-Jaffa
52 Michigan city
56 Scam
57 Suitable
58 __ been had!
59 Ultimate degree
60 Quaint
61 Chaney of film
62 Lab straw
64 Make like new
66 Paint choices
67 School skippers
68 Deceives
69 Female ruler

DOWN
1 Chatted idly
2 Lack of means
3 Employees' checkout
4 Alternative to lager
5 Superlatively flushed
6 Traction characteristic
7 Chuck Yeager, e.g.
8 Fortification slope
9 Bullfighter
10 Even
11 Vladimir Nabokov novel
12 Charles Dickens novel, "Barnaby __"
13 Fork points
14 Pipe parts
26 Sport
29 Involving punishment
33 Central Park fountain
35 Abandoned
36 Uses the transporter
37 Grown-upness
39 Determine weight by lifting
41 Outer layer of a jellyfish
44 Having been canonized
46 Lampoons
49 Baby's noisemaker
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55 Kasparov's game
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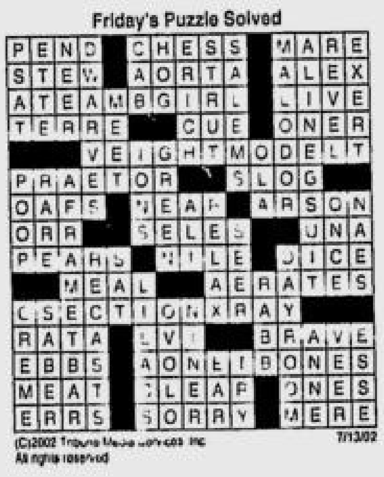
Friday's Puzzle Solved



7/13/02

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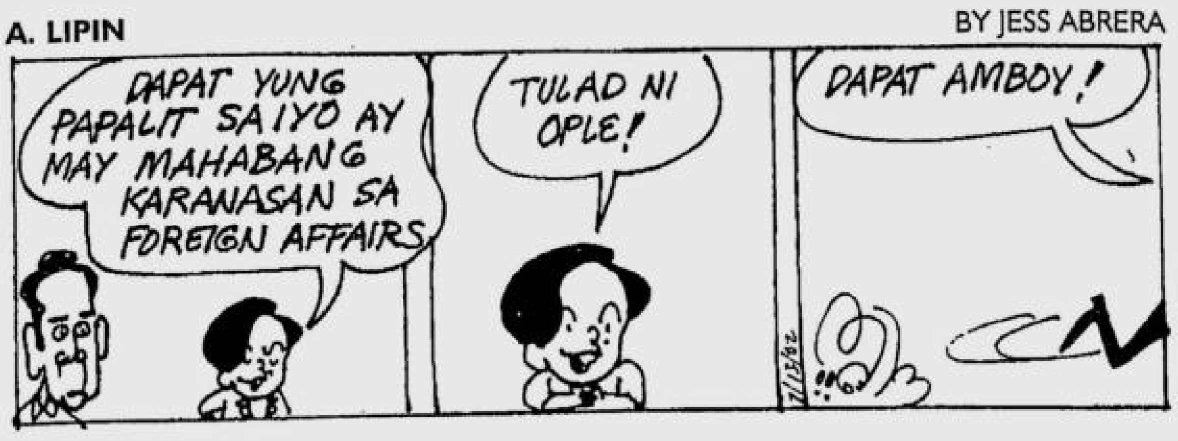
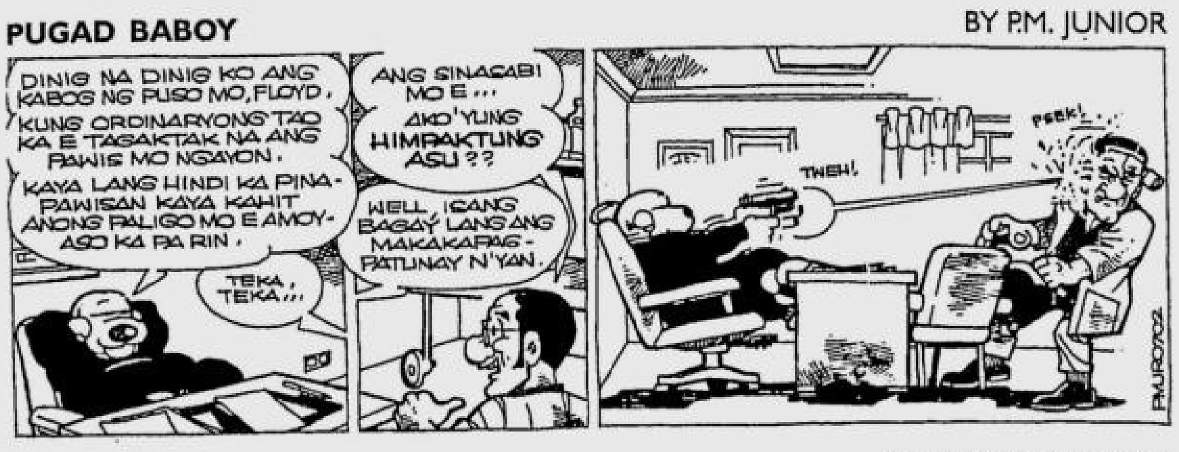
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAPAT YUNG PAPALIT SAIYO AY MAY MAHABANG KARANASAN SA FOREIGN AFFAIRS
TULAD NI OPLE!
DAPAT AMBOY!
7/13/02

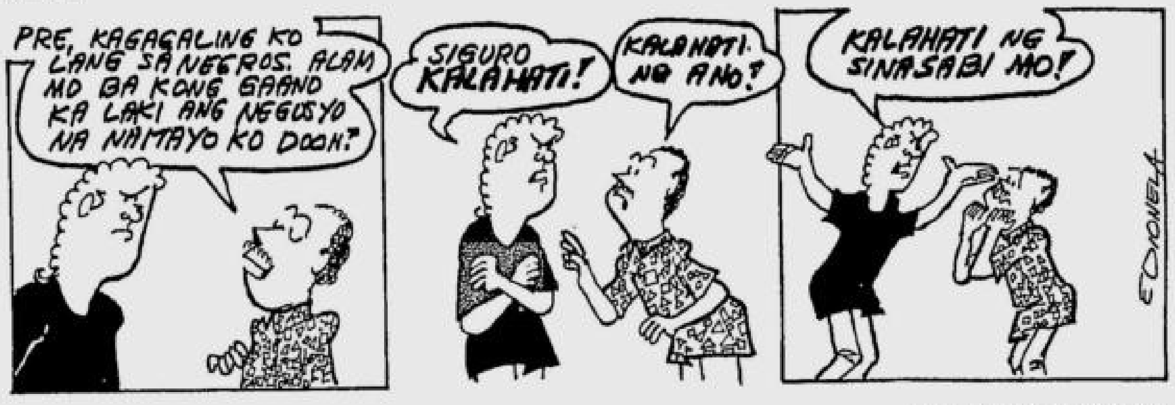
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DINIG NA DINIG KO ANG KABOG NG PUSO MO, FLOYD. KUNG ORDINARYONG TAO KA E TAGAKTAK NA ANG PAWIS MO NGAYON. KAYA LANG HINDI KA PINAPAWISAN KAYA KAHIT ANONG PALIGO MO E AMOY-ASO KA PA RIN.
TEKA, TEKA...
ANG SINASABI MO E... AKO 'YUNG HIMPAKTUNG ASU??
WELL, ISANG BAGAY LANG ANG MAKAKAPAGPATUNAY N'YAN.
THEH!
PEEK!
PMJR07.02

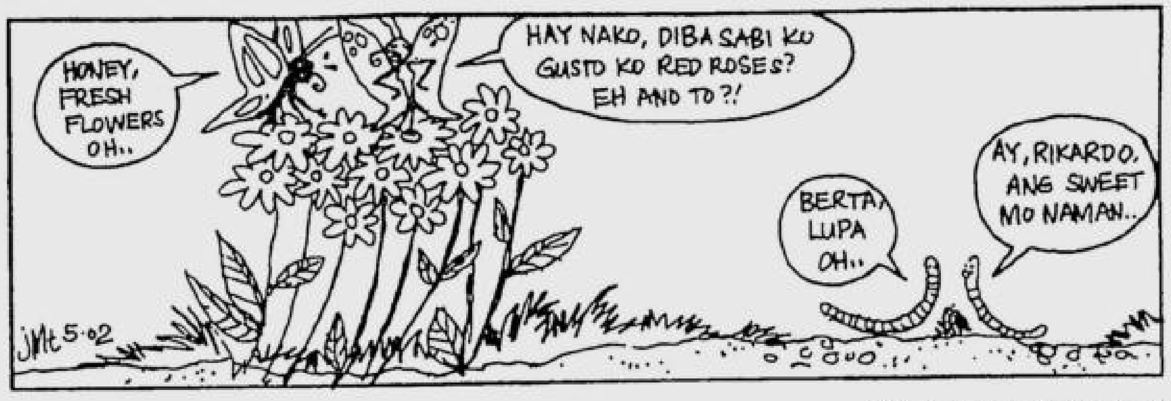
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PRE, KAGAGALING KO LANG SA NEGROS. ALAM MO BA KONG GAANO KA LAKI ANG NEGOSYO NA NAITAYO KO DOON?
SIGURO KALAHATI!
KALAHATI NG ANO?
KALAHATI NG SINASABI MO!
E DIONELA

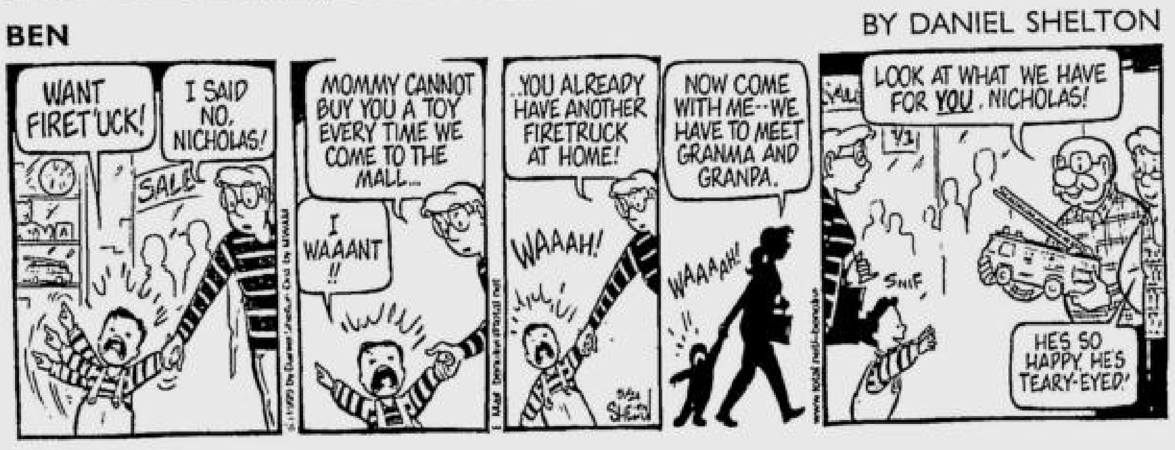
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HONEY, FRESH FLOWERS OH..
HAY NAKO, DIBA SABI KU GUSTO KO RED ROSES? EH ANO TO?!
BERTA, LUPA OH..
AY, RIKARDO, ANG SWEET MO NAMAN..
JMT 5.02

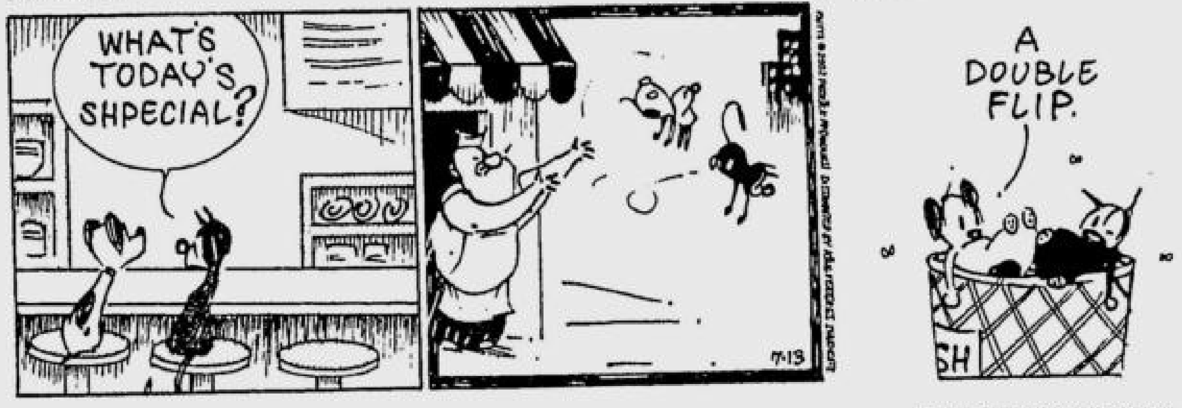
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WANT FIRET'UCK!
I SAID NO, NICHOLAS!
SALE
MOMMY CANNOT BUY YOU A TOY EVERY TIME WE COME TO THE MALL...
I WAAANT!!
YOU ALREADY HAVE ANOTHER FIRETRUCK AT HOME!
WAAAH!
NOW COME WITH ME--WE HAVE TO MEET GRANMA AND GRANPA.
WAAAAH!
LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE FOR YOU, NICHOLAS!
SNIF
HE'S SO HAPPY HE'S TEARY-EYED!

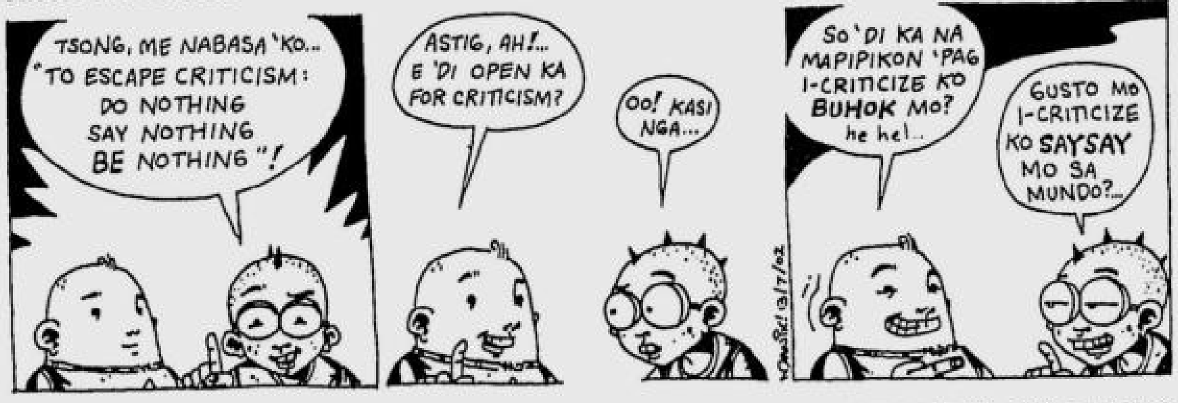
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S TODAY'S SHPECIAL?
7-13
A DOUBLE FLIP.

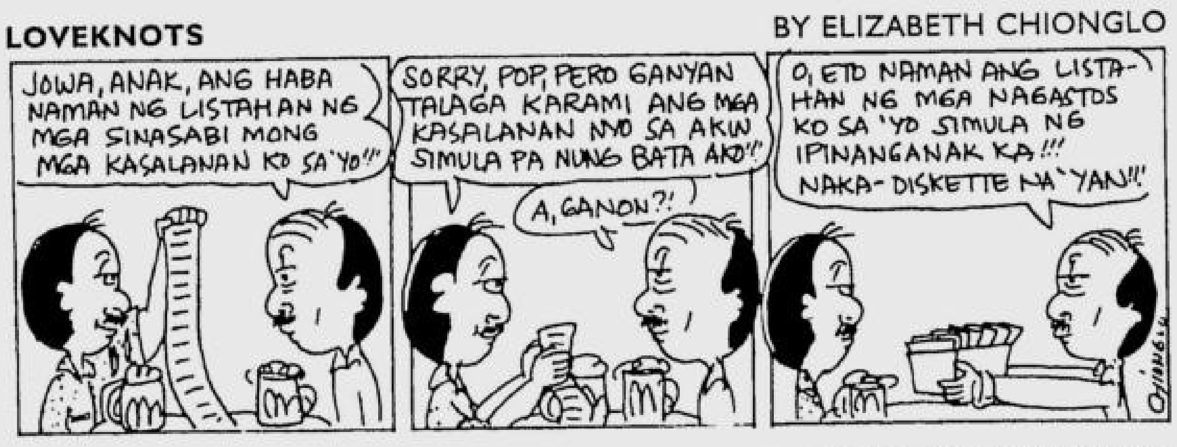
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, ME NABASA 'KO... "TO ESCAPE CRITICISM: DO NOTHING SAY NOTHING BE NOTHING"!
ASTIG, AH!... E 'DI OPEN KA FOR CRITICISM?
OO! KASI NGA...
SO 'DI KA NA MAPIPIKON 'PAG I-CRITICIZE KO BUHOK MO? he he!...
GUSTO MO I-CRITICIZE KO SAYSAY MO SA MUNDO?...
13/7/02

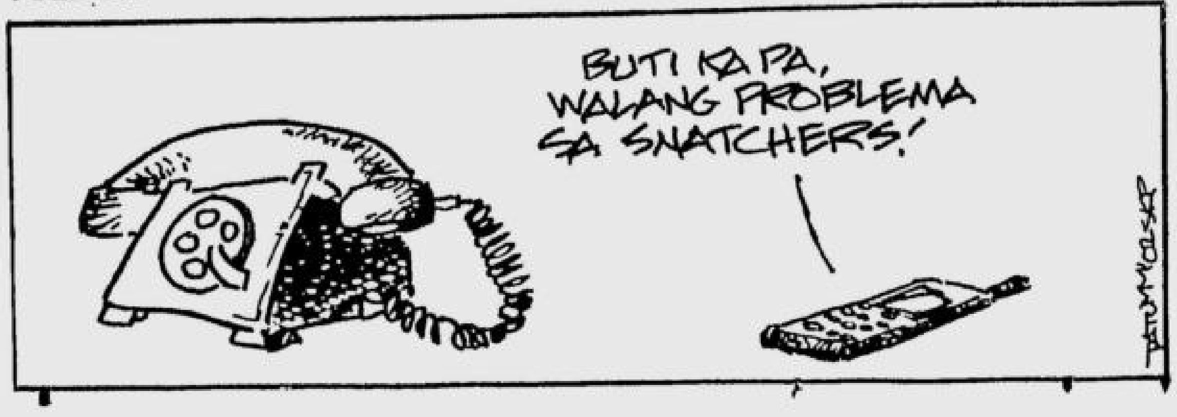
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, ANAK, ANG HABA NAMAN NG LISTAHAN NG MGA SINASABI MONG MGA KASALANAN KO SA 'YO!!
SORRY, POP, PERO GANYAN TALAGA KARAMI ANG MGA KASALANAN NYO SA AKIN SIMULA PA NUNG BATA AKO!!
A, GANON?!
O, ETO NAMAN ANG LISTAHAN NG MGA NAGASTOS KO SA 'YO SIMULA NG IPINANGANAK KA!!! NAKA-DISKETTE NA 'YAN!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BUTI KA PA, WALANG PROBLEMA SA SNATCHERS!
TATUM/CASAP

Matt and Ben give new talents a helping hand

By Nestor U. Torre

BEN Affleck and Matt Damon are described by some Hollywood pundits as US films' Siamese twins. They broke into the movies jointly as the co-scriptwriters of "Good Will Hunting," for which they won the Oscar for Best Screenplay.

Nomination

At first, it was Damon whose acting career flourished. For "Good Will Hunting," it was Damon who also earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor for his work in the title role.

Next, he received a Golden Globe nomination fro Best Actor for his portrayal of an opportunistic young man who was hired to coax a wealthy American playboy back home from Italy in "The Talented Mr. Ripley."

Damon also starred with Will Smith in "The Legend of Bagger Vance," directed by Robert Redford, and in "All the Pretty Horses" with Henry Thomas and Penelope Cruz.

Damon and Affleck finally acted together again in Kevin Smith's "Dogma," where they played a pair of outcast angels. In 1998, Damon starred in the World War Two drama, "Saving Private Ryan," directed by Steven Spielberg, no less.

His other films include John Dahl's "Rounders," Kevin Smith's "Chasing Amy," and Francis Ford Coppola's "The Rainmaker."

Wider range

Ben Affleck had a harder time getting his acting career going than the younger-looking Matt, who could essay a wider range of roles because of his youthful projection.

In time, however, Affleck came into his own, first as a supporting player, then as a leading man.

Take his latest starrer, "The Sum of all Fears." Based on the fourth Tom Clancy novel to hit the screen, the film requires Affleck to take over the role first popularized by Alec Baldwin, and then by Harrison Ford—CIA analyst Jack Ryan, but in his younger years.

After supporting roles in "Shakespeare in Love" and "Boiler Room," Affleck played action heroes in "Pearl Harbor" and "Reindeer Games," but his portrayal of Jack Ryan is his most potentially dynamic to date.

Nuclear device

This is because the film's plot requires Affleck's character to deal not just with the usual terrorist attack, but with the detonation of a nuclear device in a big football stadium in the States.

The natural impulse is to blame Russia for the attack, but the real culprit is a European neo-Nazi played by Alan Bates, who hopes that the nuclear explosion will result in Russia and the USA destroying each other, so that Bates' forces can take over the world.

AFFLECK AND DAMON. US films' Siamese twins.

But Jack Ryan is sure Russia isn't the culprit, so he has to look for the real perpetrator before it's too late.

As pluck would have it, Damon is also currently starring in a big whodunit, "The Bourne Identity," so it's interesting to see the two best buddies now going into espionage thrillers in this latest development in their respective stellar careers.

Aside from working separately, Damon and Affleck are still a movie team. They have been praised for running a scriptwriting contest, the winner of which was given a cool million bucks to turn his screenplay into a film. This was their way of discovering new film talent, and it's succeeded even beyond their expectations.

The contest shows that, even as their acting careers are flourishing, Affleck and Damon can still think of others' welfare, and help new filmmakers break into the mainstream movie industry.

Together again

Finally, Affleck and Damon are again working together on a movie, "The Third Wheel," this time not as actors but as executive producers. This is the first movie produced by their Pearl Street Productions outfit.

The film is about a dream date gone horribly, comically bad, and is a showcase for new screen talents— writer Jay Lacopo and director Jordan Brady, two more artists who have finally been given their chance to prove their worth, thanks to the ever-helpful Matt and Ben.

Alma . . .

From p. D3

nila para at least *sila nalang ang mag*-judge."

So, how is Alma these days, physically? "*Yung sakit ko* (multiple sclerosis), *andun pa rin., na sa akin naman yun kung pababayaan ko ang sarili ko. Kung hindi ako umaalalay, mapapasama. Kasi* number one *talaga yung* stress, *puyat. Pag medyo sagad na ako, nagpapahinga ako.*"

What's the secret of Alma's weight loss and sexy figure? "*Unang-una, magkasakit ka.*" Alma laughs again. "*Una, nag*-diet *ako. Bago pa ako nagkaroon ng pagsubok sa buhay ko, talagang nag*-diet *na ako. Tapos, tinulungan ng sunod-sunod na pagsubook sa buhay ko, kayâ ayun,* I maintained it *na lang. Tapos nag*-eexercise *ako. Kahit na bago maligo, bago matulog, kahit konti lang. Kasi nakakatulong din yun sa sakit ko.*" Is she happy about the way she looks now? "*Ay, oo! Magaan sa trabaho, kahit saan. At madaling makahanap ng* size."

Does she show her body in this movie? Are there bold scenes? Yes, but Alma corrects us, it's "sexy" scenes. She's got one with Victor, where she tries to seduce him but he refuses. And she has one with Jay. How did she feel when she was shooting those scenes? "*Ninenerbyos ako!*" Why? "*Sa tinagal-tagal ba naman… ilang* years… *ang huli kong* sexy scene *sa* "Makati Girl." Imagine, 1992 *pa yun. Tapos ngayon, biglang…* feeling ko, first time *ko makikipag*-love scene! *Totoo yun, hindi ako nagbibiro! Nanginginig ako!*"

True gentleman

But, she says, Jay was a true gentleman during the scene, so she relaxed, eventually. Does Alma still feel sexy? "*Dapat isipin ko yun, e. Kung hindi ko iniisip, hindi lalabas.*"

How does she compare her sexy scenes now to the ones she did 10 years ago? "*Ay, hindi puwede ikumpara. Iba naman yung ginagawa ko nung dalaga ako… mas malala. Ito, kailangan talagang gawin ito, talagang nasa istorya.*"

Will we be seeing more Alma Moreno movies in the future? "*Sana, may mga offer na maganda. Pipiliin mo talaga. Kahit nga* guesting *sa* TV, *pinipili ko.*"

Claudine . . .

From p. D2

"Acceptance and humility. Acceptance, because you're faced with the impossible when something like this comes. There's nothing you can do about it. It's either you embrace it, or you dwell on it for the rest of your life. And humility, because you realize that there are certain things you cannot control. It humbles you."

And how about the "journey of her heart"? Where is that going? "I hope *sa maganda*. As of now, I don't know—I can't say I'm really okay. I'm trying to be, and I'm moving on."

blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah

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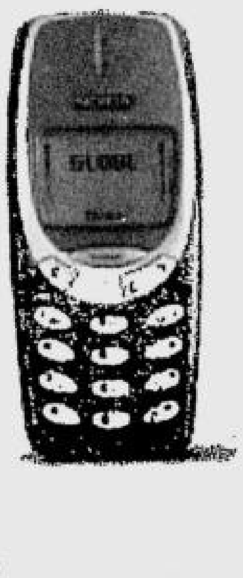

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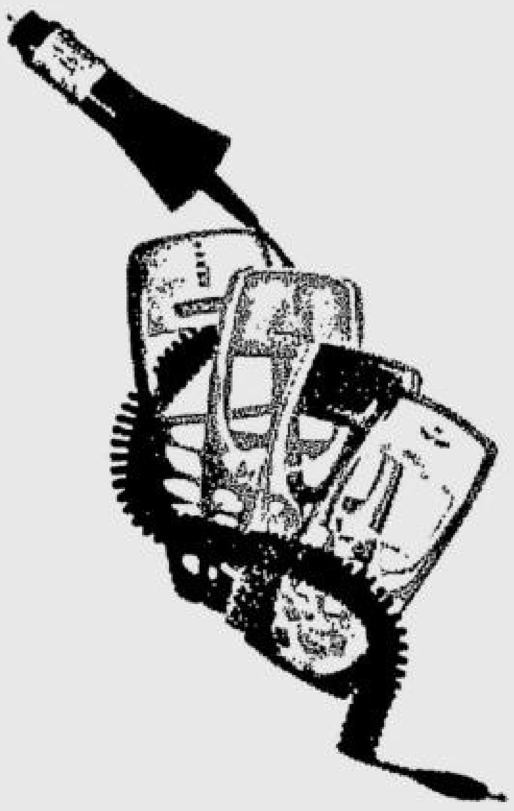

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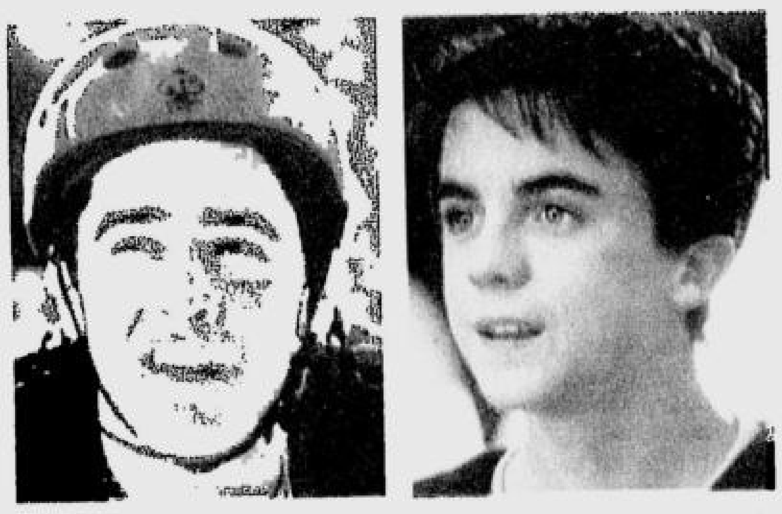
New film leads make their mark

By Nestor U. Torre



BRADFORD AND MUNIZ. Play lead roles in "Clockstoppers" and "Big Fat Liars," respectively.

FRANKIE Muniz is the 14-year-old star of the popular TV sitcom, "Malcolm in the Middle." In his new film, "Big Fat Liar," he plays Jason Shepherd, a young teener who is determined to proved to his teachers and parents that a big, bad Hollywood producer has stolen his term paper and is turning it into a blockbuster film.

Pranks and ruses

Of course, nobody believes him, so Jason has his work cut out for him to bring the powerful and nasty movie mogul to his dastardly knees. Thank goodness, Jason is clever enough to think up a hilarious series of pranks and ruses to beat the producer-plagiarist at his own game.

Director Shawn Levy believes that "Big Fat Liar" could be Frankie's breakthrough film as a young film star. "The movie is quite a departure for him," he observes. "To date, Frankie has played largely awkward and ill-at-ease characters.

"On the other hand, the teener he plays here is supremely confident and clear-minded. He has an uncanny knowledge of human nature and knows which buttons to push to get what he wants from people."

Frankie may be very young, but he's ready for this major break. He has received good reviews for his portrayal of the whip-smart title character in "Malcolm in the Middle." He has also gotten nominations for the Emmy as a lead actor in a comedy series *and* for a Golden Globe for best actor in a comedy series.

He has a nomination from the Television Critics Association, and has received the Hollywood Reporter's Young Star award for outstanding actor in a comedy series. These citations are deemed especially impressive since Frankie has garnered most of them in competition with much older stars.

In the movies, Frankie has appeared in the acclaimed 2000 movie, "My Dog Skip." He will next be seen in a supporting role in the upcoming drama, "Deuces Wild," which stars Matt Dillon and Stephen Durff.

Big break

For his part, Jesse Bradford gets his big break in "Clockstoppers," a sci-fi fantasy adventure. Producer Gale Ann Nurd was particularly worried when she was casting the movie, because its young protagonist was a daunting bundle of contradictions, which she felt very few teenage actors could manage.

Hurd describes the young protagonist, Zak, as "very, very smart, but at the same time he has something of a slacker mentality, which results in an interesting and even confounding dichotomy in his character.

Versatile

"The actor who played him needed to be charming, warm and funny, while at the same time being able to deliver a dramatic performance. *Where* would I find such a versatile young talent?!"

It's a good thing that Hurd was able to catch Bradford in "King of the Hill" and "Bring It On." He played very different characters in those two movies, thus proving that he had the versatility that the role of Zak in "Clockstoppers" required.

Aside from "Bring It On" and "King of the Hill," Bradford has also appeared in "Hackers," "Romeo + Juliet," "Prancer," "My Blue Heaven," "Presumed Innocent" and "Far from Home: The Adventures of Yellow Dog."

Just like Frankie Muniz in "Big Fat Liar," Jesse Bradford is expected to ride "Clockstoppers" all the way to the top of the Hollywood film firmament.

Quality of life

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

WHAT is it about life-threatening illnesses that makes people change for the better? Suddenly, they're different—not just because they can no longer do certain physical things, but also because they now look at the world and their life with a deeper appreciation for the simplest things.

Triumph

After my surgery, I know it's the same sun but, somehow, every sunrise is a triumph and every waking moment, a celebration. Of course, they've always been that way—but I never had the sensitivity before to understand their real value in my life.

Today, I know that every breath is a miracle! This newfound recognition of life's true worth enables me to enjoy the fullness of every experience. Like, just to illustrate, food. There was a time in my life I'd have laughed if told that gluttony was a sin. I could not claim to be a connoisseur but I knew what good food was. I also knew how to shovel it in!

My appetite was so huge, it could win the Olympics if ever there was one for that gustatory activity. And I loved all the sinful foods—like *lechon de leche, kare-kare, patatim*, crabs, prawns, lobsters and other bounties of the sea. I gobbled them all up with alacrity.

Danger signals

I defied all the danger signals. I knew I had sweet blood but I didn't care—diabetes was a strange word that only doctors understood. I was hypertensive. But then, I had all the sizes and colors of all the appropriate medicines available in the market, so why worry? As long as I didn't consider them a problem, they were not.

(It didn't help any that I had a friend who exercized every morning, religiously followed a vegetarian diet and memorized the cholesterol value of every kind of food—then she slipped, hit her head on something hard, and died. She was just in her 40s.)

Now, I'm very careful with what I eat. I stick to the diet that my dietitian has formulated for me. But I enjoy my meals more now. When you have less of something, you get to appreciate it more.

My favorite fruit is *camachile*. I used to devour three kilos at just one sitting. Can you imagine how many *camachiles* those were?

Today, I am allowed to eat only seven pieces of this divine fruit. And I make a ritual out of eating each of them, chewing and masticating ever so slowly, savoring every morsel and delighting in its flavor.

Kidney transplant

I remember Doreen Fernandez. She died of pneumonia in New York several weeks back, but she, too, suffered renal failure and had a kidney transplant. As everyone knows, Doreen was not just a connoisseur, she was a food critic. I don't know what her eating habits were but, I'm sure, she got to appreciate her food even better when her kidneys failed. I regret that I never got the chance to be friends with her—although we did smile on the few occasions that we bumped into each other, usually in restaurants.

Speaking of friends, that's one more thing that I have developed a keener appreciation for these days. Before, for me, friends were like chairs, they were just always there—and I ignored them when I didn't need to sit and rest.

At that time, I hardly sat. I stood tall! I hardly rested. I spent all my time building monuments to my dreams. I didn't realize then that the value of one's dreams is proportionate to the number of people one can share them with.

Dreaming is like sipping wine—you don't do it in the dark, you don't do it in silence, you don't do it alone. Now, I don't take friends for granted anymore. I know that every moment I have with them is precious. Like someone once told me, relationships are gifts from God, and friendships are acts of will.

Indeed, friends don't just happen. We have to consciously find them in the people we meet. When found, we have to nurture and nourish them, drink from the same cup with them, see the world through their eyes.

Friends

I have many friends—people I am always there for and who are always there for me, through thick and thin, through sick and sin, through good times and bad. I've mentioned some of them in this space in the past. But there are many others still—like Pempe Rodrigo, Baby Pascual, Maristela Fontanos, Atty. Rey Aquino, Cynthia and Rolly Coronado, Mar and Edith Bacani, and my cardiologist Dr. Joven Cuanang.

The other night, I asked myself—are there more friends than strangers in my life? Quite sadly, there are still more of the latter. But I have resolved to remedy that. Not only will I consciously make friends of strangers, but I'll also make sure that I and all my friends do not miss out on even the smallest pleasures that come from the friendship and the life we share.

Somebody also once said that there are no strangers in this world, only friends we haven't met. But how many of the people we consider friends are actually strangers to us simply because we haven't given a thought to knowing how life is lived from where *they* sit?

Can we really call friends the people we hardly know about? Friends have a direct connection to the quality of life we have. But we have low appreciation of our friends when we don't really care much about the quality of our life. And that's one more thing I have grown to have a more profound .appreciation for these days.

Dialysis

As you know by now, I have my dialysis thrice a week. The four hours I spend each time I go to the dialysis center have really made me look at the quality of my life in a totally different light.

There's this man of 20, who goes to the center once every other week when he should do so more often than that. His family can hardly afford the astronomical amount of money needed for his dialysis.

My heart goes out to this very young man, whose life is literally slipping away when it should still be ahead of him. His castles in the air have begun to crumble even before he can dream them up.

Another man in his 50s comes all the way from Pampanga for his twice-weekly dialysis. His wife tells me that their savings are now all gone. They are at the total mercy of relatives, friends and strangers who help out once in a while.

The youngest patient in the dialysis center is eight years old. According to his doctors, he needs dialysis for the rest of his life. He is a candidate for a kidney transplant but his family can't afford the operation—even if a donor can be found.

I'm told that there was this carpenter from Mindoro who refused to be dialyzed since it was too expensive. He didn't want to impose on his family anymore, so he decided to go home to their province to die. His family cried but they knew that they didn't have the money with which to wipe away their tears.

Big burden

The carpenter's only lament now is simple enough—why is his disease taking so long in taking away his life? These people are a big burden on the meager resources of their families. What quality of life do they have? Can they still embrace the morning with the same excitement as an infant opening his eyes to the sight of his mother's smile?

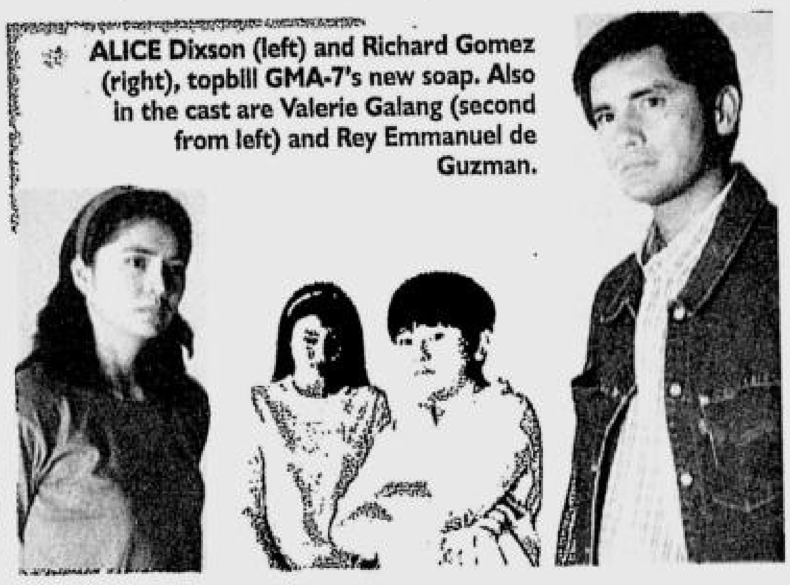
I mentioned Doreen earlier. I got to read the many good things written about her and her well-lived life. I always knew she was a great person, but I never realized how awesome were her many accomplishments. This has made me ponder my own life and how puny I am compared to her. To top it all, much of the so-called achievements that I used to consider a big deal in my life are, in reality, nothing much.

Ah, thank God for second chances! Today, I begin to get a glimpse of what my purpose in life is. I don't want to talk about it yet, I haven't finished consulting with God. But one thing's sure: This second life is no longer mine. I'm going to do the living—but the living is no longer for me.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

'Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw' premieres July 15

By Edmund L. Sicam



ALICE Dixson (left) and Richard Gomez (right), topbill GMA-7's new soap. Also in the cast are Valerie Galang (second from left) and Rey Emmanuel de Guzman.

THERE was a time when tearjerkers were simply called soap operas. Then 'Marimar' came and soaps became *telenovelas*. ABS-CBN got tired of *telenovelas* and called their soaps *teleseryes*, Now GMA has come up with its own term, *cinenovela* to describe its latest salvo in the battle of the network soaps, "Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw." An executive explained that the soap was shot like a movie, which means high production values, big stars and a story that will take the cameras to different locations. The show premieres July 15.

GMA launched the soap, we mean *cinenovela*, in grand style. The members of the cast were dressed to the nines but Studio 3, where the affair was held, was not as grand, though it looked formal enough. Maybe there was no time to make reservations at a posh location. The affair was catered by Cibo, which is known for its elegant cuisine. Members of the press were asked to come in formal wear but entertainment writers are uncomfortable in *barongs* or suits so many came in their usual casual get-ups.

Writer Gina Marissa Tagasa-Gil used the acronym S.O.A.P to describe the show. "Ang Iibign Ay Ikaw" has a Strong story, an Original concept, Awesome production and a Powerhouse cast. Since we have not watched any of the episodes, we can only confirm that the *cinenovela*, indeed, has a powerhouse cast.

The two protagonists are Christopher de Leon and Richard Gomez, who by themselves command quite a following. Then there's Alice Dixson, the object of their affection, who's making a comeback after a two-year stay in Canada, where she is based with husband Ronnie Miranda. Playing contravida is Lani Mercado.

Other big names in the cast are Jackie Lou Blanco, Barbara Perez, Rosa Rosal, Boots Anson Roa, Mark Gil and Rio Locsin. The younger generation is represented by Krista Ranillo, AJ Eigenmann, Chubi del Rosario and Karen delos Reyes. Everyone was there except for Rosa.

GMA's bigest catch for this series, however, is Binibining Joyce A. Bernal (that's how she is billed in credits) who has produced a lot of box-office hits starring Sharon Cuneta, Robin Padilla and Rufa Mae Quinto. The network is hoping that she can do the same with "Iibigin."

Like other soaps, the title is based on a song, which was one of the finalists in the 1999 Metropop contest, a composition of Jimmy Borja and interpreted by Lani Misalucha. At that time, Lani was not yet a household name. This time, her appearance at the launch was a big deal as she sang the theme. While other soaps are based on popular songs, this one will do the reverse in that the *cinenovela* will make the song popular.

The network's top brass, president Felipe Gozun, TV group head Jimmy Duavit, finance head Felipe Yalung, board member Teresa Abrogar along with executives Wilma Galvante and Mike Enriquez were there to emphasize how important the occasion was.

Let the network wars escalate!

MTV in Cebu

We were in Cebu City on Independence Day on the invitation of MTV-Philippines, which will soon have a powerful transmitter that will cover a large portion of Cebu province. Right now, it can be seen in limited areas in the province.

To hype up interest in the music channel, MTV and Ayala Center came up with "Free: The Independence Day Concert" featuring VJ KC Montero and sexy star Patricia Javier. The celebration also featured Penshoppe endorser Cogie Domingo and the Penshoppe Youth Council in a fashion show.

Rising bands in Metro Cebu kept things at fever pitch as the young Cebuanos danced the night away to celebrate June 12. Everyone enjoyed the spectacular 15-minute fireworks display put up by Ayala. It reminded us of the high-tech pyrotechnics that we once saw at the Luneta during an Edsa celebration.

On hand to oversee everything were Francis Lumen, big boss of MTV, as well as Bong Paderna, group accounts director and Rod Nepomuceno, marketing manager. Lumen, of course, is the guy behind Nation Broadcasting, which has assigned a nickname to each of its radio stations nationwide.

The gimmick seems to have worked. In Manila, Joey@92.3 has a strong presence in the market. Nation is always coming up with ideas like movie premieres, parties and concerts to promote the network.

Lumen says promotions is the name of the game in a highly competitive field. Initially, he was just going to lease his UHF frequency to MTV, but when the idea of running the music channel was offered to him, he accepted the challenge and today, MTV is tops in its market.

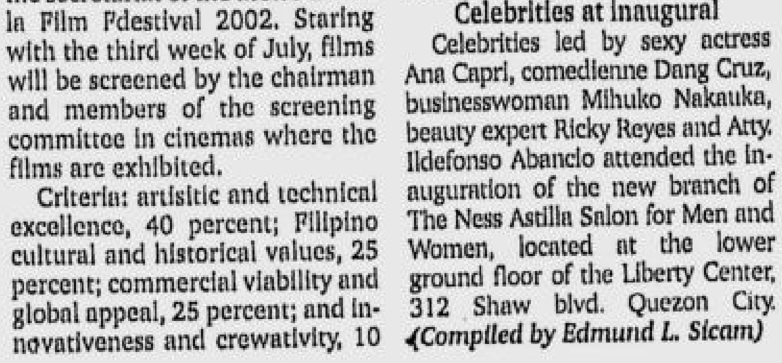
After Cebu, Lumen's next target is Davao. Although MTV's top man belongs to a different music generation, he keeps abreast with the latest trends. His most vocal critic is his daughter, from whose comments Lumen is able to get a feel of the pulse of the young generation.

'SAINN' cast in mall tour

The cast of GMA's "Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga" turned up at the SM Southmall recently to spend time with the soap's fans. Dingdong Dantes and Tanya Garcia, together with cast members Tirso Cruz III, Biboy Ramirez, Maureen Larrazabal, Meryl Soriano, Kevin Vernal, Cheska Garcia, Aleck Bovick, Red Sternberg, Tiya Pusit and Jet Alcantara, participated in several song-and-dance numbers to the delight of the audience.

"Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga" is seen weekdays at 7 p.m.

Hotdog performs at Onstage Makati tonight



THE HOTDOG band has three shows lined up this month.

HOTDOG, known for such hits as "Bongga Ka Day," "Manila," and "Pers Lab" will perform at Onstage, Greenbelt Mall, Makati starting on July 20 with additional shows on July 26 and 27.

The band will be joined by Boyfriends the boy group that made "Bakit Labis Kitang Mahal," "Sumayaw Sumunod" and "Dahil Mahal Kita" famous. Call 551-7777.

Lani Misalucha concert repeat

Lani Misalucha stages a repeat of her Crossover series in an intimate setting tonight at 9 at the Le Pavilion, Metropolitan Park on Roxas blvd. The show is directed by Rowell Santiago with Louie Ocampo as musical director. Call 844-2947 or 844-8159.

Ogie Alcasid at Captain's Bar

"Crossover Presents" continues its concert series with singer-composer Ogie Alcasid performing on July 18 together with comedienne Mitch Valdes atthe Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental. Joining them onstage are The Opera and musicians Bobby Taylo, Cesar Aguas, Mel Villena, Roy Mercado and musical director Gerard Salonga.

Call 731-1667.

Eddie K returns

Sax player Eddie Katindig performs at the Ahoy There! Sizzles and Grills in Timog in a series of shows called "Eddie K Nights." The series, which will also feature vocalist Sandra Lim-Viray, will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays. Hi repertoire will include mainstream and jazz fusion as well as latin American tunes. Call 425-1187.

Awards for quality films

Mayor Rey Malonzo recently announced the creation of the Presidential Award for Quality Films. The incentives are in the form of a P500,000 cash award to the producer of the film adjudged as the best quality film of the month. The awards will cover the period July 3 to Dec. 24, 2002.

Producers of films that were shown during the first two weeks of July must submit their films to the secretariat of the Metro Manila Film Fdestival 2002. Staring with the third week of July, films will be screened by the chairman and members of the screening committee in cinemas where the films are exhibited.

Criteria: artisitic and technical excellence, 40 percent; Filipino cultural and historical values, 25 percent; commercial viability and global appeal, 25 percent; and innovativeness and crewativity, 10 percent.

Meanwhile, the 10 winning scripts for the MMFFP 2002 will be announced on July 19.

Celebrities at inaugural

Celebrities led by sexy actress Ana Capri, comedienne Dang Cruz, businesswoman Mihuko Nakauka, beauty expert Ricky Reyes and Atty. Ildefonso Abancio attended the inauguration of the new branch of The Ness Astilla Salon for Men and Women, located at the lower ground floor of the Liberty Center, 312 Shaw blvd. Quezon City. *(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)*

Why game and quiz shows have become popular with viewers

By Noelani Torre

GAME and quiz shows have long been a television staple, but it is only in the past two years that they have enjoyed overwhelming popularity. When "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" hit the screens, it marked the beginning of the local game and quiz show era that we are still living in.

The question is, why have they gained so much popularity? We asked some viewers to give us their analyses of the fad, and they have come up with some interesting points:

Copies

"Those game and quiz shows are only copies of foreign models, the way local soap operas were copied in the past. People have gotten tired of soaps and they've turned to game and quiz shows because they're more true-to-life and real money is at stake. These shows have things in common with soap operas: they also have tension and drama. The difference is that people who aren't stars and actors can participate in shows like these. And of course, it's easy money."—*Michael Miranda, 24.*

EDU Manzano keeps "Weakest Link" contestants on their toes.

Hope

"*Maraming dahilan 'yan. Una, andun yung* hope *na may* possibility *kang manalo. Pangalawa,* easily accessible *siya sa mga tao. Mag-*text *ka lang o tumawag, tapos sumagot ng isa o dalawang tanong. Halos lahat ng Pilipino may* access *sa* cell phones. *Pangatlo,* show biz celebrity *yung* host. *Imagin-in mo, papatok ba yung* show *kung si* Mike Enriquez *yung* host? *Nasa* host *din yan.*

"*Madaling maakit ang mga Pilipino sa* drama, *tingnan mo yung* obsession *natin sa mga telenovela. 'Pag nahihirapan ang* contestant *sa* quiz show, *nakaka-*relate *ang* audience—*at gusto nila yun.*

"*May kinalaman din diyan ang* economic difficulties *sa Pilipinas ngayon. Hirap kang maghanap ng trabaho tapos heto ang isang* game show *na sandali lang ay may pera ka na. Iisipin mo, dito na lang ako, di ba? Lalo na ngayong palaki nang palaki yung perang* at stake.

"*Andyan din yung* idea *ng kawang-gawa. Naaantig ang mga Pilipino sa ganyan, ang mag-*donate *sa* home for the aged, etc.

"*Sa* ABS-CBN, *nilalagyan nila ng puso ang* quiz show *nila, pero* at the same time *may* threat *pa rin.* Under pressure *ka kasi iniisip mong kailangan mong manalo hindi lamang para sa sarili mo pero para sa* charitable institution *din na mapupuntahan ng pera.*

"*Sa* 'Weakest Link' *naman ginugulat ka,* time limit *ang* pressure *sa 'yo.*

"*Madaling kunin ang atensiyon ng mga Pilipino sa ganyang mga pamamaraan. Keysa sa bigyan mo sila ng isang* game show *gaya ng* "It's a Date," *bigyan mo sila ng* game show *na magbibigay ng pera. Mas* practical. *Nagiging* sideline *na ang pagsali sa mga* shows *na ganyan.*"—*Ian Segarra, 19.*

Entertaining

"I think one of the reasons why they're so popular is because they're highly entertaining for everybody, from the upper classes to the *masa*. *Sa mga* quiz shows, *malawak ang* range *ng* questions. Some people watch *kasi gusto nilang i-*challenge *ang mga sarili nila kung makakasagot nga sila.*

"*Ang mga* viewers *nakiki-*excite *sa mga* contestants, *at 'pag nakasagot ng tama, iisipin nila—nasagot ko, at ang* contestant *hindi*. But I think the biggest draw here is the fact that it's easy money."—*Christian Erl Altas, 18.*

Prize

"Primarily, it's because they're enjoyable and there's a prize. All that's required of you is that you act fast because everybody usually knows the answer. It's a special experience for the contestants, it's something they can boast about to friends and relatives.

"*Tsaka mabenta siya kasi mas maraming uri ng tao ang umaasa sa tsamba at swerte—kasi nagkaroon sila ng* wrong perception *sa* prayers (*na laging si* God *ang mag-*so-solve *ng problema mo para sa 'yo*). *Ang sinisisi ko diyan ay ang maling pagtuturo ng* church.

"Basically *tamad ang* society. *Dagdag mo pa ang kahirapan sa paghahanap ng trabaho ngayon. Makikita mo rin sa ganitong* setup *ang* power *ng* technology—television is the medium, you use cell phones to enter, etc."—*Marco Javier, 20.*

Knowledge

"They're interesting. You get entertained and at the same time you can gain knowledge. Even if you're just a spectator and not a contestant, you can still test how wide your knowledge is about specific topics. The prize money is also very important.

"They're games of chance and you have many opportunities to join them. If you don't have any other way to get money, this is one way to do it. *Kaysa naman gumawa ka ng masama! Parang pagsali din 'yan sa* lotto."—*Dona Grace, 17.*

Drink ionized alkaline water for good health

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

HAVE you ever heard of water that can heal? No, I'm not talking about miraculous water from some spring, but ionized alkaline water that is now available in the Philippines.

The history of ionized alkaline water springs from studies made by Japanese researchers regarding adult diseases. The Japanese group diseases into two categories—contagious and adult diseases. The adult diseases are those developed with increasing age, such as heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, gout, osteoporosis, hyperacidity, arthritis, etc.

Accumulation

In other words, adult diseases are mostly experienced by an aging population. The Japanese discovered that adult diseases are generally caused by the accumulation of too much acid in our bodies, poor blood circulation and poor cell metabolism.

Unfortunately, modern lifestyles contribute to the increasing storage of acids. Rather than drink cleansing water, people tend to consume artificial drinks loaded with sugar. This does not only add to the body's acidity but it also results in mineral depletion.

Next, people eat too much food which turns into uric acid or fatty acid. Physical and mental stress also add to the problem of acid production and accumulation. Worse, medical researchers have proposed so-called solutions to adult disease—drugs which are often also acidic in the body.

Toxic waste products

The blood is the body's transport system that brings both oxygen and nutrients to the cells, and takes away toxic waste products from the cells. The healthy state of the blood ranges from a pH level of 7.3 to 7.45. This is an alkaline condition and to maintain this state, the blood has a buffer pool of sodium bicarbonate to neutralize strong acid compounds coming out of cells as waste products of metabolism. When this condition is upset, acidosis is developed.

Herman Aihara, author of "Acid & Alkaline," states, "If the condition of our extra-cellular fluids, especially the blood, becomes acidic, our physical condition will first manifest tiredness, our being prone to catching colds, etc. When these fluids become more acidic, our condition then manifests pains and suffering such as headaches chest pains, stomach aches, etc."

Now, what does alkaline ionized water do? Here are some benefits:

—Provides oxygen ions and ionized alkaline minerals to the cells, dissolving excess fatty acids, cholesterol and crystalline uric acids.

—Acts as a powerful antioxidant that neutralizes free radicals, and flushes out body acids that cause degenerative diseases.

—Alkalizes blood, prevents thickening and improves blood circulation.

—Facilitates excretion of body waste products.

Control

Some people say that alkaline water does not really cure any disease; rather, it returns control of the terrain of the bio-electric body to its rightful owner—you. It neutralizes toxic wastes in the tissues and promotes rapid healing. In any case, the body functions much better without its acid problem.

You can buy machines that turn tap water to alkaline water or you can purchase the water itself. I know that some cancer patients and those who are in remission are drinking this water. Some of my friends and I have been drinking this water and have noticed a marked difference in our physical well-being. Now, I drink water more than I eat food because it makes me feel better. I get my supply from Ms Tess Limcaco at 931-8058. She calls her product Microwater.

The machines are more costly and there are other distributors such as Jupiter Healthcare Systems (813-5502). They can go to your house to demonstrate how their machines work.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 1085 Series of 2002

'Stuart Little 2' is big in adventure

'STUART LITTLE 2.'

GET ready—this year, a Little goes a long way! Plucky, pint-sized hero Stuart Little (voiced by Michael J. Fox) returns to the big screen in "Stuart Little 2," delighting audiences with even more action-packed adventure.

Journey

This time, Stuart must go on a journey through New York City with a reluctant Snowbell (voiced by Nathan Lane) to rescue a new friend, Margalo (voiced by Melanie Griffith), from a villainous Falcon (voiced by James Woods).

Back for "Stuart Little 2" are Stuart's entire family from the original holiday hit: Geena Davis (Mrs. Little), Hugh Laurie (Mr. Little) Jonathan Lipnicki (George Little) as well as Steve Zahn (voice of Monty).

Two years have passed since last we visited the Little family and much has changed. Stuart has blossomed and settled nicely into his new life. He goes to school (in his very own car), is very handy when it comes to building model airplanes and is proud of the fact that he made the soccer team. And he loves having a big brother, George and a new baby sister, Martha Little to play with. Even Snowbell, the curmudgeonly cat with an attitude, has warmed up to Stuart in his own way. All is well in the Little world, where every cloud has a silver lining.

Friend

Even still, Stuart yearns for a friend of his own—someone like him. Driving home from school, Stuart hears a loud squawk and suddenly an injured bird falls out of the sky, landing in the passenger seat of his car.

When she regains consciousness, the mysterious bird introduces herself as Margalo. In a frightened voice she tells Stuart she is being threatened by Falcon, a feared crime lord who terrorizes all creatures living in Manhattan.

When Stuart learns that Margalo doesn't have a place to live he insists she stay with the Littles. Mr. and Mrs. Little immediately accept Margalo and, much to Snowbell's chagrin, welcome her to stay as long as she wants.

Wally Trinidad celebrates birthday in Wow, Boracay!

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

I HAVE roamed the pristine beaches of Boracay, its countryside and bat caves. I have watched shooting stars in the sky with my photography students, blankets wrapped around us on the beach till dawn.

Travel writers

Boracay is pegged as "paradise island" and a "rare gem" by travel writers for its powdery-white sand beaches. It boasts of 200 restaurants, representing various cuisines. A melting pot of nationalities beckon us to stay in this blissful island.

Last weekend, Wally Trinidad, travel executive *cum* art collector, brought in 14 local tourists and *balikbayans* with writer Bibsy Carballo and me in tow. We boarded the Asian Spirit, the people's airline flying Manila-Caticlan-Manila eight times a day.

Boracay set me thinking about going barefoot and leave footprints in the sand. I promised myself to indulge and play in the crystal-clear water as I cradled my fins, snorkel and cameras.

I stayed at Sea Wind, the tour group at Willy's, and the stock traders at Friday's.

Beautiful resort

Sea Wind is a beautiful resort with a lot of space, trees, and a family museum owned by Roberto and Ruth Tirol-Jarantilla. It has 34 twin-sharing rooms. Pikoy Restaurant seats 40 guests, while the conference room accommodates 80 to 100 persons.

Recommended for honeymooners are the three superior rooms with a full view of Boracay, situated 55 steps up on the hill across the road from Sea Wind. Couples are married at the Holy Rosary Parish Church, as long as they submit the required papers.

Last weekend, everything was wet. The tricycle rides gave us bumps from holes on the road really maintained "that way" by the community, for tourists to experience its "local color." Unforgettable seafood fare was served by True Home Hotel manager Tony Castro at the Il Pomodoro—an al fresco restaurant just a few steps away from the sea, to celebrate Wally Trinidad's birthday.

Value for money

Wally is the tour operator who can give you most value for money on a trip to Boracay—at P7,500 per person inclusive of rt airfare, rt transfers, meals and beach front accommodation. Call Fiesta Tours at 521-7866.

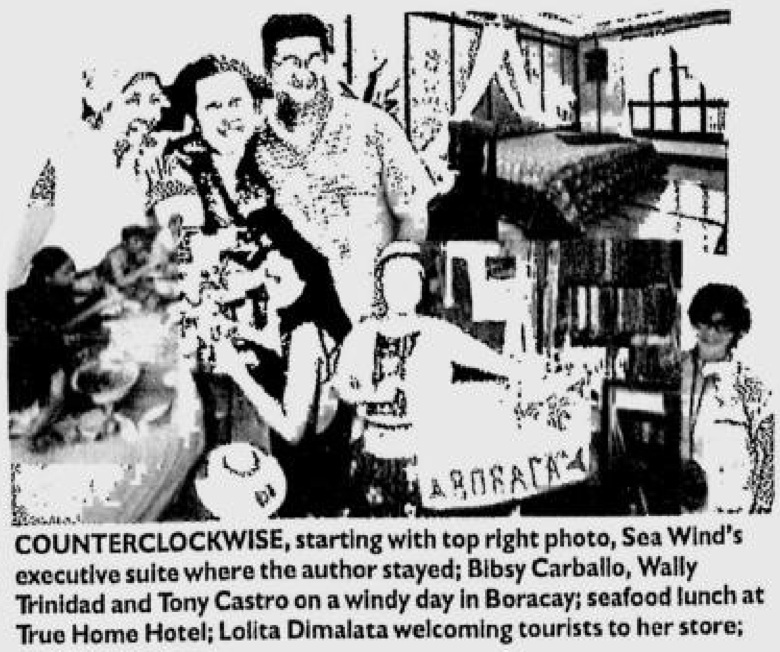
True Home Hotel is owned by Manila Councilor Kim Atienza and his Italian partner, Paulo Occhionero. It has eight high-standard rooms with a homey atmosphere. Each uniquely designed with antique Filipino furniture. The executive suite has a panoramic view of the beach from the veranda. Tony, a very pleasant manager who goes out of his way to serve, is a seasoned chef, having worked with La Taverna, L'Opera, Antonelli's, Il Ponticello and Si Restaurant.

With howling winds and rain due to Typhoon Gloria, Bibsy and I spent time in the mall or at the *talipapa*, where we met Lolita Dimalata, who started selling stuff in 1977 for Pistang Pilipino. Now on her own, she has a store selling goodies popular with foreigners, and she is happy in Boracay.

In between shopping sprees, I pointed my camera everywhere, catching the bright colors of the sarong and beach shorts, handmade crafts like lamps and bead necklaces and bracelets. Boracay's market an atmosphere where travelers thrive, rain or shine!

* * *

E-mail author at mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph or call at 522-1905, 522-5185 or 89 or cell phone (0916) 476-6613.



COUNTERCLOCKWISE, starting with top right photo, Sea Wind's executive suite where the author stayed; Bibsy Carballo, Wally Trinidad and Tony Castro on a windy day in Boracay; seafood lunch at True Home Hotel; Lolita Dimalata welcoming tourists to her store; and Mandy Navasero.

SMITH. Huge weapons.

'Men in Black II' posts huge July 4 box-office haul

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Big guns mean big money. "Men in Black II," the action comedy about agents with huge weapons policing extraterrestrial riffraff, debuted with $52.1 million in its first weekend.

Starring Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith, "Men in Black II" pushed its total to $87.2 million since opening Wednesday.

The movie took over the No. 1 slot from "Mr. Deeds," which came in second with $18.4 million in its second weekend. "Lilo & Stitch" was third with $12.6 million and "Minority Report" was fourth with $12.56 million.

Teen rapper

The basketball family flick "Like Mike," starring teen rapper Bow Wow, debuted at No. 5 with $12.2 million. The weekend's other big release, "The Powerpuff Girls Movie," grossed $3.6 million for a weak ninth-place debut.

"Men in Black II" broke the record for best Fourth of July weekend, beating the original "Men in Black," which grossed $51.1 million over the same weekend in 1997. Accounting for today's higher admission prices, however, the sequel sold fewer tickets than the original.

Strong holdover films

With the big "Men in Black II" debut and strong holdover films, Hollywood set a record for the long holiday weekend. From Wednesday to Sunday, the top 12 films grossed about $215 million, compared with $198.2 million for the top 50 over the five-day Fourth of July weekend in 1996, the previous record holder.

"Given how this year is going and the records already broken, it's really no surprise this Fourth of July would be a record-breaker," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

The industry is on track to shatter its revenue record of $8.4 billion set last year. This year's box office has been powered by such blockbusters as "Spider-Man," which took in more money during an opening weekend than any film in history.

The top 15 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and Nielsen EDI Inc. are:

1. "Men in Black II," Sony, $52.1 million, 3,557 locations, $14,661 average, $87.2 million, one week.
2. "Mr. Deeds," Sony, $18.4 million, 3,231 locations, $5,698 average, $73.6 million, two weeks.

'Lilo & Stitch'

3. "Lilo & Stitch," Disney, $12.6 million, 3,222 locations, $3,922 average, $103 million, three weeks.
4. "Minority Report," Fox, $12.56 million, 2,729 locations, $4,601 average, $97.1 million, three weeks.
5. "Like Mike," 20th Century Fox, $12.2 million, 2,410 locations, $5,054 average, $19 million, one week.
6. "The Bourne Identity," Universal, $9.2 million, 2,512 locations, $3,645 average, $89 million, four weeks.
7. "Scooby-Doo," Warner Bros., $7 million, 3,257 locations, $2,156 average, $137.5 million, four weeks.
8. "The Sum of All Fears," Paramount, $3.7 million, 1,592 locations, $2,334 average, $111.7 million, six weeks.
9. "The Powerpuff Girls Movie," Warner Bros., $3.6 million, 2,340 locations, $1,531 average, $6.1 million, one week.
10. "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood," Warner Bros., $2.8 million, 1,792 locations, $1,571 average, $61.1 million, five weeks.
11. "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," IFC Films, $2.5 million, 499 locations, $5,028 average, $23.6 million, 12 weeks.
12. "Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones," Fox, $2.45 million, 1,162 locations, $2,109 average, $291.3 million, eight weeks.
13. "Spider-Man," Sony, $2.2 million, 1,502 locations, $1,468 average, $400.1 million, 10 weeks.
14. "Hey Arnold! The Movie," Paramount, $2 million, 2,534 locations, $793 average, $10.7 million, two weeks.
15. "Windtalkers," MGM, $1.8 million, 1,563 locations, $1,132 average, $36.6 million, four weeks.

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GMA/LUZON: Conchita P. Salvador
VISAYAS/MINDANAO: Juliet Enero
3rd - Picnic Set
2 Winners
GMA/LUZON: Yolanda Halili
B.2, L.19, Doña Marcela Subd., Canlalay, Binan, Laguna
VISAYAS/MINDANAO: Doris L. Tan
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The number of entries from all over the country is overwhelming.
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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Stella O. Gonzales**

WARNING ON HORMONE TREATMENT

It raises heart disease, cancer risk

ILLUSTRATION JED ESTRADA

WASHINGTON—Women wondering whether to take hormone replacement therapy (HRT) got a clear answer last Tuesday: Don't, if the goal is to lower the risk of heart disease and other chronic illness.

Healthy women who take combined hormone replacement therapy after menopause increase their risk of breast cancer, stroke, blood clots and heart disease, researchers said.

The risks are so high the federal government stopped a trial of women taking HRT and issued a warning to doctors and patients.

"Women should not start or continue to use the therapy to prevent heart disease," said Dr. Jacques Rossouw of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, who helped lead the study.

"The findings show that it doesn't work. In fact, the therapy increases the chance of a heart attack or stroke. Additionally, it increases the risk of cancer and blood clots," he said.

The study, published in a special online edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association, is the second blow this month to HRT, which is taken by millions of women. Doctors issued a final report last week confirming that the combination of estrogen and progestin does not protect women from heart disease after menopause.

Study stopped

Contrary to once-popular belief, the pills can actually harm the hearts of previously healthy women, concluded the study of 16,600 women. It raised the number of strokes by 41 percent, heart attacks by 29 percent and breast cancer cases by 26 percent.

Other smaller studies had raised similar suspicions, but the new results were so convincing that the US government abruptly halted the study on Tuesday, three years ahead of schedule.

But here's the confusing part: The risk for each individual woman is actually pretty small. Compare 10,000 women who take the hormones for a year with a similar group that doesn't. Among the hormone-takers, an additional eight women will get breast cancer, seven will have a heart attack, eight will have a stroke and 18 will have blood clots in the legs or lungs.

But consider that millions of women take hormones, and that quickly adds up to thousands of preventable illnesses.

On the good side, the hormones did prevent hip fractures from osteoporosis, and lowered the risk of colon cancer. But there are safer alternatives that women should consider using instead, Rossouw said.

Length of use

The tricky issue here is that an estimated 40 percent of women use hormones because they're the only relief for the hot flashes and night sweats that can make menopause miserable. Those symptoms often last a year, and even longer for some women. So how long could they use estrogen and progestin?

"There is no really safe period," Rossouw acknowledged, noting that the heart risks occur rapidly. He advised: "As short a period as you can get away with in order to manage the menopausal transition."

Wyeth, which makes the Prempro brand of combined HRT used in the study, said most women take it for less than the five years the study lasted.

"The average duration of therapy for woman taking Prempro is 33 months," said Dr. Victoria Kusiak, vice president of clinical affairs for the company. "Fifteen percent stay on for more than four years."

She said a company survey found 16 percent of women are being prescribed HRT to prevent heart disease, and 90 percent get their first prescription for hormones to manage immediate symptoms such as hot flashes and vaginal dryness.

The researchers said women must decide for themselves how serious their immediate symptoms are, and whether the benefits of the hormones outweigh the risks of chronic disease.

Don't be alarmed

But Britain's Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) said on Wednesday that women should not be alarmed by the US studies.

"Overall the study found there was no difference in mortality and no overall increase in cancers," the drug watchdog said in a statement.

CSM agreed that the US study was important and said women who continue using HRT should have a regular checkup.

Women need to look at alternative treatments to prevent heart disease, osteoporosis and other aging-associated diseases, said Marcia Stefanick, an associate professor of medicine at Stanford University in California, who led the study.

"We need to clearly separate treatment for diseases of aging in women," she said.

The estrogen-progestin combination was formulated because taking estrogen alone increases the risk of cancer of the uterus. For women who have had hysterectomies and who need HRT, estrogen alone may be safer, the researchers said.

"A separate clinical trial of estrogen alone is continuing," Stefanick said.

Only Prempro, the leading estrogen-progestin combination—not other brands that have lower dose of estrogen or estrogen skin patches, was tested in the study.

Stefanick challenged the drug industry to prove whether their products are safer.

While hormone use has slowly declined for a decade, Rossouw said the biggest hurdle is drug industry marketing both in ads patients see and promotions to doctors that suggest hormones are great for overall health.

"We hope that truth will win out over advertising," Roussow said.

Reuters, AP

YES... HAIR LOSS CAN BE TREATED!

Do something about it -- NOW.

Hair loss can be alarming, especially when it happens suddenly. Excessive hair loss has many causes. It can result from childbirth, high fever, severe infection, major surgery, chronic illness, thyroid disease and fungus infection of the scalp. Inadequate protein in the diet, some medications, cancer treatments. birth control pills, low serum iron, improper hair care and improper use of hair cosmetics and hereditary thinning are other causes. All these may result in some form of baldness (alopecia).

The most common type of hair loss affecting men is called male pattern baldness. The development of this condition depends on a genetic predisposition (heredity), male hormones (androgen) and age. The hair loss usually begins on the sides (temples) or on the top of the head (crown). Some men lose only some hair and develop a bald spot on the crown or a receding hairline. Others, especially those who experience hair loss at a young age, may go completely bald.

In women, hormonal imbalance is one of the key factors that can lead to hair loss. An oval area of thinning is seen over the top of the scalp which may progress from mild to moderate to severe thinning.

If you shed a lot of hair when you comb or brush your hair or if your hair becomes thinner or falls out, consult a dermatologist. Expect questions about diet, medications including vitamins, family history of hair loss, recent illness, and hair care methods. After careful examination of your hair and scalp, your dermatologist may study a few hairs under the microscope or perform some more laboratory tests. This may include a biopsy or sample of the scalp. Remember, the diagnosis and treatment of baldness is best left to the authority - your dermatologist.

A health information service from

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Rheumatic heart disease still cause for concern

By Charles E. Buban

THE PREVALENCE of rheumatic heart disease among children still poses a major concern in this country. While RHD is rare in developed countries, it remains a bane in developing countries like ours.

Poverty and overcrowding, poor sanitary conditions, lack of education and limited access to medical care for adequate diagnosis and treatment are some of the factors contributing to the proliferation of this disease.

In fact, the Philippine Heart Association reported that by school age, one in every 1,000 Filipino schoolchildren will suffer from RHD—a fact that should be taken seriously by parents since this ailment strikes mostly children and adolescents.

RHD is a condition in which the heart valves are damaged when a person has rheumatic fever. This type of fever begins with a strep throat, an infection caused by streptococcus A bacteria.

Rheumatic fever can affect many connective tissues of the body—especially those of the heart, joints, brain or skin.

Anyone can get acute rheumatic fever, but it usually occurs in children 5 to 15 years.

Studies show that some structures of the streptococcal bacteria are genetically similar to certain tissues of the human body. When the body's immune system produces antibodies to fight the streptococcal infection, these antibodies also attack the connective joints or other organs. In the process, the heart's valves become damaged or deformed.

A damaged heart valve either doesn't fully close or doesn't fully open. Depending on which heart valve is affected, the damage can eventually lead to serious, even disabling problems. The most advanced condition is congestive heart failure, in which the heart enlarges and can't pump out all the blood.

Common symptoms

The most important step to prevent rheumatic fever and RHD is to check the occurrence of strep throat.

Symptoms of strep throat may include fever (38.3 degrees Celsius or higher), presence of pus on the tonsils, swollen and tender lymph nodes in the throat area, and a feeling of being sicker than you normally would be with just a cold.

These symptoms may be mild in some children, so it's better to take your child to a doctor if you can't tell for sure whether it's a strep throat. Only laboratory tests (such as a throat culture) will confirm that the sore throat is due to streptococcal infection.

Left unattended, a strep throat may lead to rheumatic fever (0.3 percent, who have strep throat, will develop acute rheumatic fever).

According to the Merck Manual, symptoms of rheumatic fever begin one to five weeks after the disappearance of a strep throat. The average duration of an attack of acute rheumatic fever is three months or longer.

This particular type of fever is an inflammation that may affect many parts of the body. Symptoms of rheumatic fever vary, depending on which parts of the body become inflamed. The main symptoms are joint pain, fever, chest pain or palpitations caused by heart inflammation, jerky uncontrollable movements, a rash and small bumps (nodules) under the skin.

A damaged heart valve is often the aftermath but the symptom isn't immediately noticeable.

Unfortunately, there is no "miracle drug" to cure rheumatic fever.

If a strep throat is treated properly, rheumatic fever can be prevented. Parents can help their child avoid a strep throat by making sure he follows the doctor's order to take antibiotics.

New pain medicine now available

PAIN can be experienced by anybody at any time in his life. It is a warning that tells us that something is wrong with our body and needs immediate attention.

The Bureau of Food and Drugs recently approved a recommended formulation of rofecoxib for the treatment of acute pain. Rofecoxib, a product of Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD), is now available as a one-tablet-a-day drug.

Rofecoxib has been approved by regulatory agencies in more than 75 countries for the treatment of the symptoms of osteoarthritis pain and inflammation. It has been approved in some countries, including the Philippines, for the treatment of symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis. To date, the safety together with efficacy of rofecoxib has been studied in about 24,000 individuals. More than 42 million patients worldwide have been prescribed rofecoxib since it first became available in 1999.

"Throughout history, herbal extracts containing salicylates have played a major role in pain management," said Dr. Clark D. McKeever, medical director of nTouch Research in Houston, Texas.

"Acetysalicylic acid (aspirin) was first synthesized over 100 years ago and innumerable other traditional nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) have become available over the last 30 to 40 years. Their efficacy has been documented in a number of clinical disorders including fever, headache, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, gout, dysmenorrhea, dental and orthopedic surgical pain," Dr. McKeever added.

New class of meds

Rofecoxib belongs to a new class of medicines called coxibs (cyclooxygenase 2 inhibitors). In 1991, scientists determined that two separate cyclooxygenase isomers existed—the COX-1 and COX-2. COX-1 naturally protects the stomach lining from stomach acid. COX-2 is produced primarily in the presence of inflammation.

According to Dr. McKeever, "In the past years, NSAIDs have been the medicine of choice for the treatment of pain. However, with the emergence of new pain medications like rofecoxib, patients may now be protected from side effects and complications. NSAIDs are known to cause gastrointestinal injuries such as perforations, heartburn, obstruction and bleeding."

Aside from providing overall pain relief, rofecoxib was also associated with a high level of patient satisfaction in recent clinical findings. The studies also showed that fewer patients taking rofecoxib required the use of additional pain relief medication, also known as rescue medication. Overall, rofecoxib was well tolerated in the studies.

People who have had an allergic reaction to rofecoxib, aspirin or NSAIDs should not take the medicine. Caution should be exercised in patients with a medical history of ischemic heart disease. Safety and effectiveness in children below the age of 18 have not been studied.

For more information on the management of acute pain, consult your doctor. For other concerns, call the MSD Customer Call Center at 878-6338 or 1 800 1 888 6737 (for those outside Metro Manila)

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

The case of the singing leprosy sufferer

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

LEON T. always had a soft heart for the poor, sick and downtrodden. As a young Christian volunteer, he worked in a leprosarium in India 15 years ago. He was a good singer and his songs, which conveyed the message of hope and God's love, were a soothing balm to the severely ill patients.

After three months in India, he went back to Manila to resume his studies. He graduated from college and ventured into sales. On the side, he did some singing with a band for special occasions.

More than five years after his stint in India, he started having skin lesions, which appeared as light colored patches. At first, he ignored the patches. He thought it was just an ordinary fungal infection. He self-medicated with over-the-counter anti-fungal drugs but they didn't help.

He consulted a doctor and found out that the patches were actually signs of a disease that no one wanted to have. The skin lesions were due to leprosy.

An old disease

Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by the bacterium *mycobacterium leprae*. It is one of the oldest diseases in the world. It is believed to have originated in India. In Egypt, mummies with symptoms of leprosy were excavated dating to the 2nd century.

In Europe, during the dark ages, leprosy was dubbed "the living death." Leprosy sufferers were shunned by their family, friends and society. They were social outcasts and were required to warn others of their presence with a bell or clapper.

As if these denigrating practices were not enough, make-believe funeral services were conducted to declare a leprosy sufferer's "death" in society. After witnessing their symbolic funeral, they were banished, never to return and mingle with the rest of society.

Other cruel practices included requiring the leprosy sufferer "to walk on the road according to the direction in which the wind was blowing" to clear their marks and footsteps. In some areas, they were required to dress in a special garb and wear a sign around their necks announcing their disease so people could flee before leprosy sufferers could come near them.

Leprosy was once widespread throughout the world. However, due to effective treatment and leprosy eradication programs, the disease has dramatically declined in recent years. According to the World Health Organization, there are only 1.6 million cases of leprosy worldwide, compared to 5.4 million in 1985.

Leprosy bacteria

The *mycobacteria leprae* prefer to live in cooler parts of the body. This is why leprosy primarily affects cooler surface areas of the body such as the skin, nerves near the skin and the surface membranes of the nose and mouth.

It never crossed Leon's mind that he would get infected with leprosy. He felt his world crumble upon hearing his doctor's diagnosis.

"The lesions are early signs of leprosy. The bacteria destroy your nerves, which is why you do not feel anything on the skin patches. It's a good thing you decided to have it diagnosed as early as possible," the doctor explained to Leon.

Leprosy bacteria grow very slowly and, as in Leon's case, may take several years from the time of exposure before it is clinically manifested.

There are two main forms of leprosy—tuberculoid leprosy, the milder one, and lepromatous leprosy, the severe form.

In tuberculoid leprosy, there are only few skin lesions present. The lesions in lepromatous leprosy are more widespread, thus containing more leprosy bacteria. As the disease progresses, hard nodules and skin folds may form on the face of a lepromatous patient. The nose may also collapse, giving the patient a lion-like appearance.

Misconceptions

The symptoms of leprosy are caused by overabundance of the *mycobacteria leprae* in lepromatous leprosy and by the body's defective immune response to the bacteria in tuberculoid leprosy. Because the bacteria damage the nerves, leprosy patients feel nothing in affected areas of the skin. This is why people with leprosy often do not notice when they get injured or burn their fingers and toes. Thus, they usually fail to treat their injury.

The injured body part becomes susceptible to other types of bacteria that cause tissue damage. Contrary to common misconception, leprosy does not cause body parts to fall off.

The clawing of the fingers and the "drop foot" deformity among leprosy patients are due to damages caused by the mycobacteria leprae to nerves in the hands and feet.

Both types of leprosy may also lead to blindness.

"Does that mean I have to be confined in a leprosarium?" Leon asked his doctor.

"Fortunately your disease is the milder form of leprosy and it is not contagious. This means you do not have to live in a leprosarium. It is highly treatable nowadays, and you need not worry about your future," assured Leon's doctor.

Transmission

It is now clear among medical practitioners that leprosy cannot be easily transmitted. Yet the spread of the disease from person to person remains unclear.

When a person with untreated lepromatous leprosy sneezes, nasal droplets release large numbers of *mycobacteria leprae* in the air. These dispersed bacteria could infect another person who inhales the droplets. It can also invade the body through a skin cut or abrasion.

Although scientists believe that these processes may explain the spread of the disease, it is still unclear whether they can be considered the primary mode of disease transmission.

After the doctor explained to Leon that the untreated form of the severe lepromatous leprosy was contagious, it became clear to him that he contracted the disease when he had close contact with the leprosarium patients in India.

Only 5 percent of those who are exposed to the bacteria actually develop leprosy. This is because most people are immune to leprosy. People living with a leprosy patient for an extended period are at risk of contracting the disease.

Scientists cannot explain why only few individuals develop the disease while most people are naturally immune to it. Health workers who care for patients do not appear to be at an increased risk of developing the disease themselves.

The doctor assured Leon that leprosy is rarely fatal.

He was given anti-leprosy medications, which he religiously took for 12 months. After a year of therapy, there was no sign whatsoever of leprosy in Leon.

Leon does not regret having volunteered to work with leprosy sufferers in India. It might have caused his leprosy but the physical scars have long healed. The thought that he did his share in alleviating the sorrows of poor lepromatous patients had helped heal his emotional and psychological wounds.

Science celebration: Outstanding young scientists

(Last of four parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST July 11 at the Manila Hotel, 10 young scientists were recognized by the National Academy of Science and Technology, the highest scientific policy-making body in the land. I was honored to be one of them.

Renato A. Avenido, university researcher and laboratory officer at the Institute of Plant Breeding of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB), has a doctorate in agricultural science from Nagoya University. For the past 18 years he has been working on plant biotechnology, contributing to the basic understanding of in vitro plant morphogenesis. This led to the development of suitable tissue culture technologies in various crops (like the mung bean) for a wide range of applications in agriculture.

Peter S. Guzman, assistant professor at the UPLB Department of Agronomy, has a doctorate in plant breeding and genetics from Iowa State University. He has been actively involved in the development of yellow corn hybrids, germplasm enhancement, molecular markers and quantitative genetic theory to improve crops. Since 1998 he has been the head of a team that had developed 50 elite inbred lines of yellow corn.

Gabriel O. Romero, chief science research specialist on genetics and molecular biology and the genebank manager of the Philippine Rice Research Institute, has a doctorate in genetics from the University of California at Davis. His pioneering work in plant genetic resources and disease resistance has led to improved ways of evaluating, conserving and utilizing crop germplasm. Through information and bio-technologies, he innovated germplasm management. Recently he successfully cloned the coat protein gene of the rice tungro bacilliform virus, which can be engineered in rice to build resistance against the disease.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Mice research

Rhea Victoria T. Anunciado, associate professor at the UPLB Department of Basic Veterinary Sciences, has a doctorate in agricultural science from Nagoya University. Laboratory animals are valuable tools in biology, especially for drug testing, developmental studies, animal models for human diseases, and others. Mice are ideal experimental animals because they reproduce well, are easy to handle, and can be manipulated developmentally. Dr. Anunciado has developed new mouse models for noninsulin dependent diabetes. She has proved that the Philippine wild mouse could be utilized as a valuable genetic resource model.

Noli N. Reyes, associate professor at the Department of Mathematics at UP Diliman, has a doctorate in mathematics from the Ohio State University. He is the leading researcher in the country in the areas of Fourier and wavelet analysis, approximation theory and applied partial differential equations. These can be applied to the processing of large amounts of data in signal analysis, image processing and environment monitoring. His research involves prediction of the growth of quantities under certain conditions, which occur frequently in the physical and engineering sciences.

Physics

Arnel A. Salvador, associate professor at the National Institute of Physics at UP Diliman, has a doctorate in physics from the University of Illinois. His research interests revolve around fiberoptics and optoelectronic circuits, specifically the optical and electrical properties of certain films, heterojunction and low-dimensional structures (quantum wells and dots) and semiconductor device fabrication.

Raymund C. Sison, dean of the College of Computer Studies at De La Salle University, has a doctorate in computer science from Tokyo Institute of Technology. His work on the use of intelligent information technologies to support learning and instruction spans several years. Tailoring his models to user needs, he has also proposed a conversational model of Internet-based learning, which covers several methods, such as self-directed, tutorial, discovery and collaborative learning.

Genetics

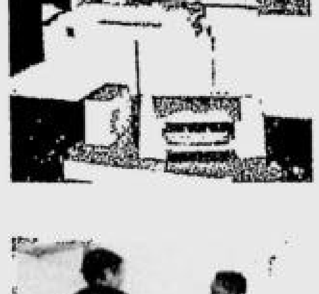
Eva Maria C. Cutiongco, clinical associate professor at the Department of Pediatrics in PGH and head of the molecular genetics laboratory at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has a medical degree from UP. Her research interests are widespread—ranging from human genetics, cancer genetics, and gene therapy to birth defects and newborn screening.

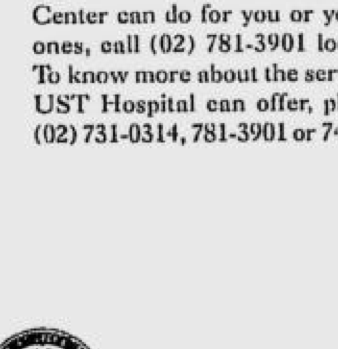
Ma. Lourdes Dl. Matsuda, research assistant professor at the NIH and clinical associate professor at UP Manila, has a medical degree from UP. She is concerned chiefly with women's health, especially breast cancer. She has worked on palliative care for cancer patients and the genetic and molecular mechanisms in cancer.

I am currently associate professor of psychology and mathematics at the Ateneo de Manila University, and my research combines these two fields. Much of my work centers on the cognitive or clinical aspects of educational psychology, specifically in mathematics teaching and learning. I have also studied the psychological dynamics of family business corporations, and have served as consultant to selected companies.

Though most of the results of these studies are necessarily published in journals and discussed in conferences, I have tried to derive practical guidelines—which I have expounded on through the years. Thank you, readers—without your support this column would have ceased to exist. Most of all, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my nominator, National Scientist Gelia Castillo, and the august body of NAST, for recognizing my work.

(Queena N. Lee-Chua writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo.com.)





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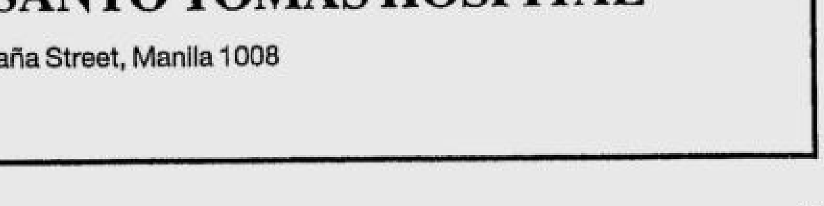


UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS HOSPITAL
España Street, Manila 1008

'Star for a Night,' three months later

"STAR for a Night" host Regine Velasquez.

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Saturday, IBC-13's "Star for a Night" singing search had its third monthly finals, with Kristel Cristobal emerging as winner. The tilt was significant because all four weekly winners were so young, aged from 12 to 16.

Preponderance

To our mind, this (and the preponderance of female contestants and winners) indicates the search's policy of discovering very young singers to cater to the huge youth market in the years to come.

This is understandable from a business standpoint, but it causes problems on point of talent. Young singers may be promising, but many of them are still rather unformed and quite raw, so their performances leave a lot to be desired.

Only rarely do viewers get to hear an adolescent singer who has already gotten her act together. Most of the time, they have to make-do with young singers with strong voices and not much else.

We feel, therefore, that "Star for a Night" should expand its search to include older singers who have already honed their performing skills. It is a fallacy to think that talents in their 20s or even in their 30s can no longer make it in show biz.

Dancers

Other thoughts on "Star for a Night" as it starts its fourth month of telecasts: The show really has to do something about its use of dancers to "frame" the contestants' numbers, or to provide "poetic" counterpoint to dramatic or romantic songs.

Thus far, most of the show's dance portions have been either distracting or shallowly or ponderously "artistic." In the future, dance support should be limited to fast numbers.

When the show was just starting, its publicity gushed about its providing varied production showcases for its contestants. Alas, that promise has not been kept. What we see today is pretty much the same production set-up, with only minor adjustments for each contestant.

Predictable

As a result, the show has become visually predictable. Instead of lazily or economically coasting along in this manner, the program should really provide four different set-ups each week, in terms of production design, musical concept and lighting. Otherwise, even initially loyal viewers wouldn't feel like seeing the program from week to week.

As for the judges, they really have to decide if they're there to help the contestants evaluate their skills, or to win a popularity contest. Far too many of them just give the usual, ego-boosting "pep talks" that don't really help the contestants size themselves up—particularly when they lose!

Choice of songs

Another sore point is the choice of songs for the contestants to sing. Too many contestants' chances of winning have been undermined by their being made to sing songs that are too mature for them, or too difficult for their tender voices to tackle.

Thus, contestants should be allowed to choose their own songs, We know that this could result in the show's losing some "class" as unsophisticated contestants do "New York, New York" and "Greatest Performance of My Life" over and over again, but contestants' right to choose for themselves ultimately has to be upheld.

Judging from some calamitous choices in the past, the show's talent-development people haven't been doing a good job in this regard, so changes *have* to be made.

"My mom took real pleasure in cooking her specialties, like her famous Callos. Every ingredient had to be perfect."

Maricel Laxa-P.
Maricel Laxa Pangilinan
TV Host / Actress

Mealtime is a special time for me. I sit and take the time to savor food. It's during these times that I remember mommy's cooking and miss her even more, especially now that she's living abroad.

Food and family

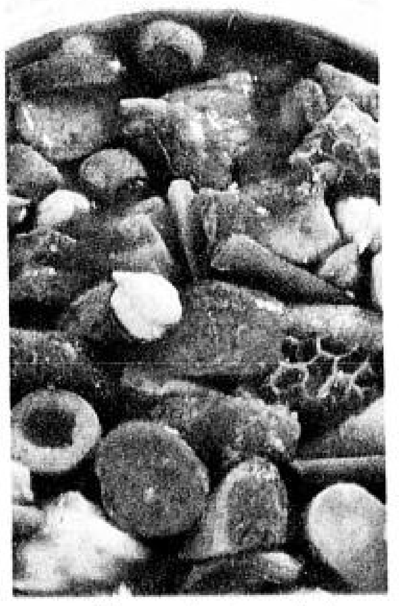
I don't know how she did it. She was a single mom, taking care of 2 kids. But she always managed to prepare delicious meals for us everyday. Cooking was one way mom showed us how much she loved us. She took real pleasure in her cooking — from the preparation to the finished product. She used to tell me, "One of the key ingredients of a meal is the presentation, even if you're just preparing your kid's baon." When I'd open my lunch at school, I'd find her personal touches — happy faces, colored napkins. Mom loved watching us enjoy her masterpieces! She always said nothing compares to the joy of watching her family enjoy something she prepared. So even if I'm not yet an expert cook like my mom is, I prepare merienda for my kids and dinners for my husband as often as I can.

Maricel Laxa with mom Imelda Ilanan and daughter Ella.

Mommy still loves cooking. Whenever she's in Manila, she spends hours in my kitchen whipping up her famous dishes. I even ask her to prepare extras so I can store them in the freezer. That way, even when she's back in Singapore, I can still savor her cooking. I guess it's my way of keeping her close when she's away.

Mom's advice

"Take care of what you put into your body," Mom always reminds me. That's why she always makes sure she uses only brands that she trusts. She taught me that even the simplest recipes taste great, as long as the right ingredients are used. And for my mom, that means only Del Monte Tomato Sauce will do. She wouldn't dream of cooking her famous Callos with anything else! That's why, in my own kitchen, I make sure there's always Del Monte Tomato Sauce. Only the best for my family. Mommy taught me that.



Callos ala Imelda

Ingredients:
1 kilo tripe (cut into strips)
1/2 kilo pork leg or litid (cut into 1" cubes)
3 pcs. chorizo de bilbao (cut into strips)
2 pouches (250g each) Del Monte Tomato Sauce
1 cup cooked chick peas or garbanzos
2 cloves garlic
1 medium onion (diced)
2 medium potatoes (cut into chunks)
1 green bell pepper (seeded and cut into strips)
1 red bell pepper (seeded and cut into strips)
salt and ground black pepper to taste

Cooking directions:

Boil tripe in water until tender. Rinse the tripe and cut into 1-inch squares. Set aside. Boil the pork leg separately with salted water until tender. A pressure cooker may be used for faster cooking.

In a large pan, sauté garlic and onion for about one minute. Add chorizo de bilbao, tripe, pork leg, potatoes, Del Monte Tomato Sauce, and 2-3 cups water. Stir, then cover and simmer over low heat for 20 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Add red and green bell peppers and garbanzos. Simmer once. Add a little water if the mixture is too dry. Stir to blend flavors and serve hot.

(Makes 6 servings)

Del Monte Quality
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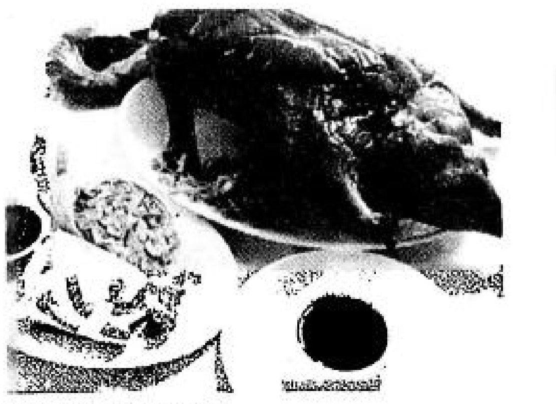
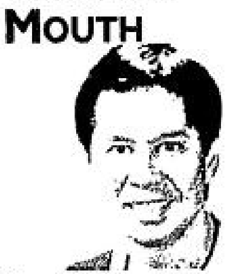


ROAST Peking duck.

Passion for good Chinese food



WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

DAVID Soon Eng Sin has always had a passion for good, authentic, Chinese food. That love resulted in the birth of the North Park Restaurant in Escolta. He not only loved to eat but also enjoyed cooking. Often, he would import his ingredients from Taiwan or Hong Kong just to prepare a feast for the family.

Degree

His two boys easily acquired this love and carried on. Gabby got a degree from La Roche in Switzerland, while Rafael or Paeng was already setting his sights on their first restaurant.

Contrary to the belief of many, North Park started in Escolta and not on Wilson st. in Greenhills. It opened around the time other restaurants like Smart, Panciteria San Jacinto, Tomas Pinpin café and others were in operation. (I call these places' offerings Philippinized Chinese food.)

From there, Gabby and Paeng, after consulting their Daddy David, opened the first branch of North Park in Greenhills along Wilson. There are hundreds of Chinese restaurants in the metropolis but North Park is one of the few that serve authentic Hong Kong Chinese cooking. Their food is fast, authentic, inexpensive and most important, delicious. North Park has become such a success that it now has five branches.

So popular was North Park in Makati that the brothers had to open almost right across their branch to accommodate the crowd of foodies. The new place is called Next Door. Only a few of their bestsellers are there, everything else is new.

Next Door has modern décor. It reminds me of the chic Chinese restaurant Mr. Chow in London. As soon as I looked at the menu, there were so many choices that I didn't know what to order. So, I went with the most popular dishes.

I always take home a few siopaos. I order all the kinds that they have. Keep them frozen and pop one in the microwave for about a minute and voila!, instant midnight snack.

Bestsellers

Here's a list of Next Door's bestsellers:

Chinese amoy lumpia, chicken pao with lapcheong, pinsek frito, lapulapu fish cake Next Door, siomai, boneless white chicken, tausi spare ribs with black Nori, (*kakainis, pati ako nagugutom na*) double pork rib with onion sauce, tiger prawns in hot pot, stewed curry beef with tendon, stewed fish filet curry with eggplant, boneless chicken curry, lechon macau, mixed meat roast congee with century egg, salted fish jaded rice, Chinese bagoong with lechon macau, shredded chicken with mushroom chow mein, stir fry beef hofan, sweet and sour boneless pork, Tiger prawns with sweet chili sauce, steamed snow fish with black bean sauce, salted garlic squid, vinegared crispy tofu, wok-stirred spaghetti noodles with black pepper beef, Hainan chicken, Roast Peking duck, century egg with jelly fish salad.

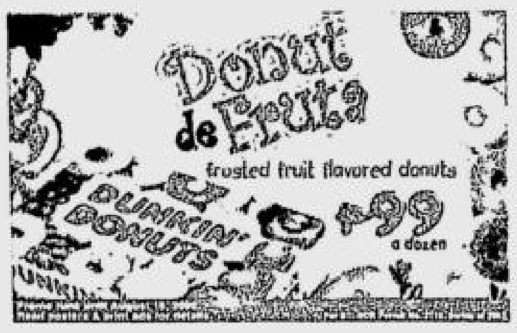
And, for drinks and desserts, kopi jelly, lychee panna cotta, durian banana split, halo-halo, Next Door apple iced tea, and fresh lemonade.

Me, I start with a pisik, salted fish, steamed fish, tendon, double cooked ribs and some veggies. The rest, I just dream about for my next visit.

Next Door is along Makati ave. almost across the North Park branch on the same street.

Happy eating!

SATURDAY Special



OREIRO. Former MTV VJ.

Focus on Natalia Oreiro and Facundo Arana

TELENOVELAS are big in this part of Asia. No wonder the soaps churned out by Southern American countries enjoy as big a following as their local counterparts.

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

Write us: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Saturday Special section, Show Biz Q&A, Chino Roces ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo sts., Makati City.

This week's Q and A:

"I am among the thousands of fans of 'Monica Brava.' I tried writing to the local network about Facundo Arana (Ivo) and Natalia Oreiro (Monica), to no avail. Are they sweethearts for real? Please feature them."—*Baby Buenaventura, Dona Juana Subd., Rosario, Pasig City.*

Natalia Marisa Oreiro Iglesias was born on May 19, 1977 in Montevideo, Uruguay. She was a former MTV VJ who started taking acting lessons at age 8.

At 12, she auditioned for commercials and appeared in more than 30 spots as a teenager, for Coke, Pepsi and Johnson & Johnson, etc. She moved to Argentina when she turned 17, played bit roles in soaps, and landed a job as an MTV VJ.

After the soaps "Dulce Ana," and "90-60-90 Modelos," 1997's "Ricos y Famosos" made her an international soap opera star.

First album

In 1999, she recorded her first album as "Natalia Oreiro," from which the hit single, "Me Muero de Amor," was chosen as the theme song of "Monica Brava" ("Muneca Brava" in Argentina), which started airing that year.

The show was a huge hit in Argentina, Europe and the Middle East, and won for her two consecutive nominations as Best Actress in the Martin Fierro Awards, Argentina's counterpart of the Emmy Awards.

Her second album, "Tu Veneno," further strengthened her popularity offshore. In January this year, she married rock star Ricardo Mollo, leader of the Argentine band "Divididos."

So, that answers your question about Ivo and Monica being lovers off-cam. She currently plays the title role in the romantic dramedy TV series, "Cachorra." She was nominated for a 2001 Latin Grammy (Best Female Pop Vocal Performance), the first Uruguayan to be nominated for a Grammy.

Jorge Facundo Arana, on the other hand, was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina on March 31, 1972. At 15, Facundo's best friend took him to his first drama class. You know the rest. He started appearing on TV via the 1992 series, "Son de Diez," but landed the role of Ivo in 1999, his biggest break. Last

FOCUS/ p. F2

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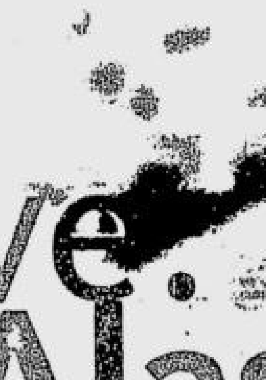

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O&M-HO EVENING PRIMROSE PDI-07-13 2002

TV premieres of outstanding movies light up the small screen

By Nestor U. Torre

THE AUDIENCE for movies on TV has become so huge that networks and cable channels spend millions to secure the television rights to the biggest film hits.

On the Cinemax channel at 9 p.m. on July 14, the movie channel premieres "Snatch," British director Guy Ritchie's follow-up to his acclaimed movie, "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels."

"Snatch" stars Brad Pitt and Benicio del Toro.

Unlikely ensemble

The film brings together an unlikely ensemble of characters—unscrupulous boxing promoters, violent bookmakers, a Russian gangster, incompetent amateur robbers.and supposedly Jewish jewelers. They are brought together by a botched diamond heist that leads to a wild and tangled adventure.

Ritchie's film finds humor in all sorts of grotesque situations and unconventional plot elements. These include a dog that squeaks because it has swallowed a squeeze toy, a briefcase attached to a severed arm, and a unique kind of pig food. The director even occasionally rewinds the story to show an event from a different viewpoint.

Pitt plays a wild Irish gypsy boxer who refuses to lose a rigged match, while Del Toro is a diamond thief with a penchant for gambling.

Big catch

Meanwhile, on the HBO channel, the big catch this month as far as TV premieres go is the Tom Hanks starrer, "Cast Away," which will be screened at 9 p.m. on July 20. The gripping tale of man against the elements casts Hanks as a FedEx troubleshooter whose charter flight crashes near the South Pacific and leaves him stranded alone on an island for four years.

"CAST AWAY." Learning to survive by going back to basics.

While his fiancee (Helen Hunt) and co-workers assume that he's dead, he must learn how to survive both physically and emotionally by going back to the absolute basics.

Hanks performs alone for much of the movie, a truly cinematic experience that makes use of minimal dialogue but a lot of expressive images and dynamic introspection.

Different perspective

The film reminds viewers to pay attention to what really matters in life, and to "cast away" the extraneous. Like Hanks' character, they could discover new things about themselves and see their lives from a different perspective.

Finally, Star Movies has acquired exclusive pay-television broadcast rights to two quality films, "Monster's Ball" and "Gosford Park." The two prestigious movies garnered two Oscars and nine nominations in this year's Academy Awards.

A "passion play" of racial politics in the American South, "Monster's Ball" stars this year's Best Actress award-winner, Halle Berry, who topped the competition with her gutsy portrayal of a prisoner's widow.

White prison guard

Billy Bob Thornton plays the white prison guard who's forced to confront his racist feelings when he falls in love with the wife of the man he's helped execute. "Monster's Ball" was also nominated for Best Original Screenplay.

"Gosford Park," directed by the esteemed Robert Altman, is a murder mystery set in 1932. Its drama revolves around a large party of houseguests and their servants as they assemble at a country estate for a weekend getaway that ultimately unearths deadly secrets.

Featuring a veritable "Who's Who" of Britain actors, "Gosford Park" is Altman's first film set in England. It won the Best Original Screenplay Oscar and was nominated for six others, including Best Picture and Best Director.

'Project Greenlight' gives aspiring screenwriters a break

By Edmund L. Sicam

IT'S the usual chicken-or-egg dilemma: A new screenwriter in Hollywood cannot put his foot in the door unless he has representation, and he cannot have representation unless he has already produced scripts. Locally, it's pretty much the same though literary agents are rarely involved. An unknown cannot get a script made unless he has a contact in the industry. Of course, there are scriptwriting contests that make things simpler for new writers, but even winners have to get insiders to pitch their works to producers.

Similar problem

Ben Affleck and Matt Damon sympathize with these writers because they too faced a similar problem when they came up with the script for "Good Will Hunting" and none of the studios would take their calls.

"We called around pitching the script of 'Good Will Hunting' but not telling anyone who we were," Damon recalls. "No studios would take our calls and agents told us they don't accept unsolicited manuscripts. It's this ridiculous trap, where you can't get literary representation until you sell a script, but you can't sell a script unless you get literary representation. Ben and I just got lucky enough to skip that step."

Damon says he and Ben wrote "Good Will Hunting" "out of frustration that we couldn't find good roles as actors." "No one would give us a job, so we just wrote our own jobs. Of course, then we had to go through a whole other process to get the damned thing made. It's hugely frustrating to be filled with all this energy and passion, yet be allowed no voice."

WINNING writer, Pete Jones directs his young talents in "Stolen Summer."

We all know, of course, that their script did get made. In fact, they even won an Oscar for their screenplay. To give aspiring writers a break, Damon, Affleck and the movie's executive producer, Chris Moore, came up with "Project Greenlight." Contestants were asked to submit their works online and whoever won would get a million dollars to produce the movie. The three were also able to convince Miramax Films to distribute the winning film.

The website attracted some 10,000 entries, of which the one written by Pete Jones, a former insurance salesman from Chicago, was chosen. His script "Stolen Summer," is a coming-of-age story about an eight-year-old Irish child who befriends a leukemia-stricken seven-year-old Jewish kid. During the summer, they try to find a way to get the dying boy to heaven.

"We really are convinced that the next Scorsese or Spielberg is out there, but he is not necessarily already working in Hollywood," says Damon. "Part of directing comes down to taste and our role was to clarify what it was that Pete really wanted, and then help make that happen. 'Project Greenlight' tries to give these people access, but allow them to succeed or fail on their own terms."

HBO, the movie channel that has also ventured into reality-based shows, felt this was an event worth recording for its subscribers, so it signed on to document the entire process from the time the finalists are chosen to the time the film is finally shown in theaters.

Online judging

Initially, the judging was done online by the contestants themselves. We asked Chris Moore via phone patch how this was achieved. One important task was for the organizers to weed out people who were cheating, those who didn't read the scripts but proceeded to rate them anyway. He said the forms that entrants had to fill out online had built-in questions to weed out those who had not read the script.

There were problems about deadlines. The organizers had to extend the contest because the PDF software that contestants needed to upload the scripts had a glitch. Two days before the deadline, Adobe, the company that ran the software had to shut down their website so there were some entries that couldn't be uploaded. So, Moore extended the deadline. He explained, though, that 90% of the problems with the software had to do with the users themselves.

Thanks to HBO Asia's Caroline Wong and Angie Tan and their local representative, Lulu Virtusio, we manged to get a tape of the first three episodes of the documentary. After watching the opening installment, we look forward to watching the entire 12-part series which premieres on Cinemax across Asia on July 22 at 8 p.m., with new hour-long episodes airing every Monday at 8:30 p.m.

In Episode 1, we meet the 10 finalists who were flown in from all over the US to Los Angeles where the judging would be done. Before they were trimmed down to 10, the semifinalists had to submit their biography on video, which was fun to watch because they resorted to different gimmicks to ctach the attention of the organizers. Some wore costumes and others came up with weird situations like building an ark. Still others made a more straightforward presentation.

The finalists were then provided with video equipment to film a segment from their scripts. These tapes would later be screened at an LA video house where the three winners would be announced. From these three, the organizers would come up with the one script that would get the $ 1 million. *(To be concluded)*

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Welcome to Christopher Durang's quirky universe

By Leia Torre

"CHRISTOPHER Durang Explains It All For You" contains six plays written by Christopher Durang, one of the leading satirists of our time.

Durang was born on Jan. 2, 1949, in Montclair, New Jersey. He obtained his education from Harvard College and the Yale School of Drama, and has had plays shown both on and off Broadway.

These include "The Nature and Purpose of the Universe," "Titanic," "A History of the American Film," "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You," "Beyond Therapy," "Baby With the Bathwater," "The Marriage of Bette and Boo" "Laughing Wild," and "Betty's Summer Vacation."

Six plays

His plays "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" and "The Marriage of Bette and Boo" have won Obie Awards, and he has received a Tony nomination in the category of "Best Book of a Musical" for his first publication, "A History of the American Film." He has also received a Drama Desk nomination for "Betty's Summer Vacation."

Aside from these plays written for the stage, Durang has also written several screenplays, including "Beyond Therapy," "The Nun Who Shot Liberty Valence," "The House of Husbands (which he co-authored with Wendy Wasserstein)," and "The Adventures of Lola."

Durang's involvement with the theater and the movies does not end with his writing. He has also performed for both stage and screen. As an actor, he appeared in "Laughing Wild" in Los Angeles and "The Marriage of Bette and Boo" in New York (for which he shared an acting ensemble Obie Award). He has staged his cabaret "Chris Durang and Dawne" in numerous venues, earning himself a 1996 Bistro Awartd.

DURANG. Satirist.

Co-authors

He has also appeared with Julie Andrews in the Sondheim review "Putting it Together" and with Sigourney Weaver in the Brecht-Weill satire "Das Lusitania Songspiel," of which they were co-authors.

The six plays in this book are "The Nature and Purpose of the Universe," "Identity Crisis," "Titanic," "The Actor's Nightmare," "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You," and "Beyond Therapy."

In the informative introduction written by the author, he explains how his childhood beliefs were a crucial factor in writing his plays. *(To be concluded)*

Asian pop cinema gets the attention it deserves

By Ronald G. Mangubat

WRITER Lee Server is a seasoned film aficionado who has taken a keen interest in Asian movies. Traveling throughout the continent, he recently came up with a 132-page book titled "Asian Pop Cinema: Bombay to Tokyo," a complete guide to the film genres of Korea, Japan, China, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Taiwan, Southeast Asia and India.

Combining scholarly journalistic writing with his flair for history and pop culture, Server also describes his observations on the so-called "mysterious Asian soul."

Flavor

In order to taste the flavor of Asian cinema at its richest, Server ventured beyond the mainstream marketplace, and went to areas where most other people would not bother to go: "...On the bijous and grindhouses of the countries of origin; to assorted video stores in assorted Chinatowns and the newer immigrant centers renting imported tapes form the old homeland."

In the process, he had a lengthy stay in India where he even worked as an extra in a Bollywood drama.

The book, which was published in Hong Kong in 1999, takes us from one country to another, with a brief description of the country's film history, development, struggles, problems and trends. It also features interviews with popular directors and writers like John Woo, Takeshi Kitano, Tomoaki Hosoyama, and even our very own Eddie Romero and Jose Lacaba. It has lots of film stills, posters and behind-the-scenes photos.

THE BOOK explains what makes Asian cinema unique and fascinating.

Anecdotes

The anecdotes told by the interviewees are a joy and even an inspiration to read. John Woo's confession, for instance, about his painful and sad childhood and his struggles to rise above his poor beginnings is provocatively touching.

Jose Lacaba's stories about Lino Brocka, Imelda Marcos, Sean Connery and the board of censors during the '80s are funny and noteworthy. It was actually in Lacaba's interview where I found out that years ago, Filipino films were exported and shown in Pakistan.

Also interesting are Eddie Romero's stories about Francis Ford Coppola and Gerry de Leon. On the other hand, Tomoaki Hosoyama's erotic excursions and ruminations on the theme of nonsense are provocative.

When asked about the theme that his films convey, he answered: "The theme is 'nonsense.' Nonsense about mass media, love affairs, about life and the real world. To sum up, the things that are meaningful are composed of nonsense."

Chinese superstars like Jackie Chan, Chow Yun Fat and Michelle Yeoh are prominent in this book, especially Chan, whose life story is richly discussed in the Hong Kong section. In the Philipine section, a lengthy paragraph about Rosanna Roces is also included.

Common denominators

There are some common denominators with all the countries discussed in the book. All seem to have experienced a "dark age" marked by a shrinking box office, the competition brought about by Western films, and television.

Japan experienced this in the '70s as Server recalls, "Akira Kurosawa, Japan's most honored filmmaker, was notoriously unable to get his projects funded. There were rumors of a suicide attempt." In times like those, sex films, although hated by moralists, would act as the coal to fuel the industry.

The Philippines had its *"bomba"* and "ST" eras just as Japan had its "Pink" film phase. However, after the storms, there would always emerge a new wave, an upsurge of quality films would transpire and cash would flow.

Hong Kong experienced this in the '80s, while Taiwan China and India had their "new wave" in the '90s. All countries had trouble with censors, with Korea and the Philippines experiencing the most painful types of film castrations. But this problem, although considered to be a major irritation, is something that everybody lives with. There will always be changes in laws and government, and as Server observes, these changes would also bring critical shifts in creative expressions and populist filmmaking.

Too short

The Southeast Asian section of the book, was too short, however, and only briefly described the decline of locally produced films in Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam, It was in this section where I felt something was lacking, because I have always been interested in films from Cambodia and Myanmar. Unfortunately, the author did not sufficiently cover this topic.

The book takes readers through various film genres, from the extravagant Japanese *anime*, to samurai and swordsman epics, to Hong Kong's action flicks, Yakuza and triad movies, monster films, cyberpunk animation, exotic erotica and India's sing-and-dance films. Although it is laced with encyclopedic movie facts, the book is still an easy read and would appeal even to non-movie buffs.

For real movie lovers, the book is not only a guide, but a treasure trove of information, anecdotes, insights, riveting features and essays on what makes Asian cinema unique and fascinating.

Focus on . . .

From p. F1

year, he started making movies ("La Fuga" and "Chiquititas") in Argentina, both of which became blockbusters.

"I love Ewan McGregor. But other than the 'Star Wars' movies, I've seen very little of him. What movies of his are available in the Philippines? Where can I write him?"—*Joanna dela Cruz, Mandaluyong City.*

You *are* kidding, right? Ewan has appeared in over 35 movies so far. While a number of the artsy films he has done may not be found here in the Philippines (like "Shallow Grave"), many titles are available in our local video shops.

We first noticed the talented actor in 1994's "Shallow Grave," and then in his breakthrough performance in 1996's very controversial "Trainspotting."

The 31-year-old Scotland-born actor appeared in a lot of critically acclaimed films (and a few critically panned ones), many of which are available here: "Emma" (with Gwyneth Paltrow); "Little Voice"; "Rogue Trader"; "Night Watch"; "A Life Less Ordinary" (with Cameron Diaz); "Brassed Off"; Ridley Scott's "Black Hawk Down" and Baz Luhrman's "Moulin Rogue!" (with Nicole Kidman). Of course, there's also "Star Wars, Episode I."

Very lucky

You'd be very lucky to find copies of Ewan's "revealing" performances in "Trainspotting," Peter Greenaway's "The Pillow Book" and the mind-bending "Velvet Goldmine," a controversial McGregor movie we have always read about but never saw until we found a copy in a small Davao del Sur video shop. Go figure!

Write him: 503/504 Lotts Road, The Chambers, Chelsea Harbour SW10 OXF, UK or 13 Shots Garden, London WC2H 9AT, England, UK. We were told he actually answers some letters.

Trivia

Cameron Diaz left home at age 16 to work as a model, and lived in Japan, Australia, Mexico, Morocco and Paris. She is very superstitious, and has a reputation for being late.

After a stormy relationship with Matt Dillon, she got engaged to Jared Leto (last seen here in "Panic Room") in November 2000.

The 29-year-old, 5'9" actress became only the second actress (after Julia Roberts) to join the coveted "$20-M Club," when she agreed to do the sequel to the hugely successful "Charlie's Angels."

* * *

The Tony Award-winning play with the shortest title was "Da" (1978). The longest? "The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton Under the Direction of the Marquis de Sade" (1966). Whew!

Only five actresses won a Tony and an Oscar in the same year: Shirley Booth won a Tony for "Time of the Cuckoo" and an Oscar for "Come Back, Little Sheba" in 1953; Audrey Hepburn for "Ondine" and "Roman Holiday," 1954; Ellen Burstyn for "Same Time Next Year" and "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," 1975; Mercedes Ruehl for "Lost in Yonkers" and "The Fisher King" (1991), and Judi Dench for "Amy's View" and "Shakespeare in Love" in 1999.

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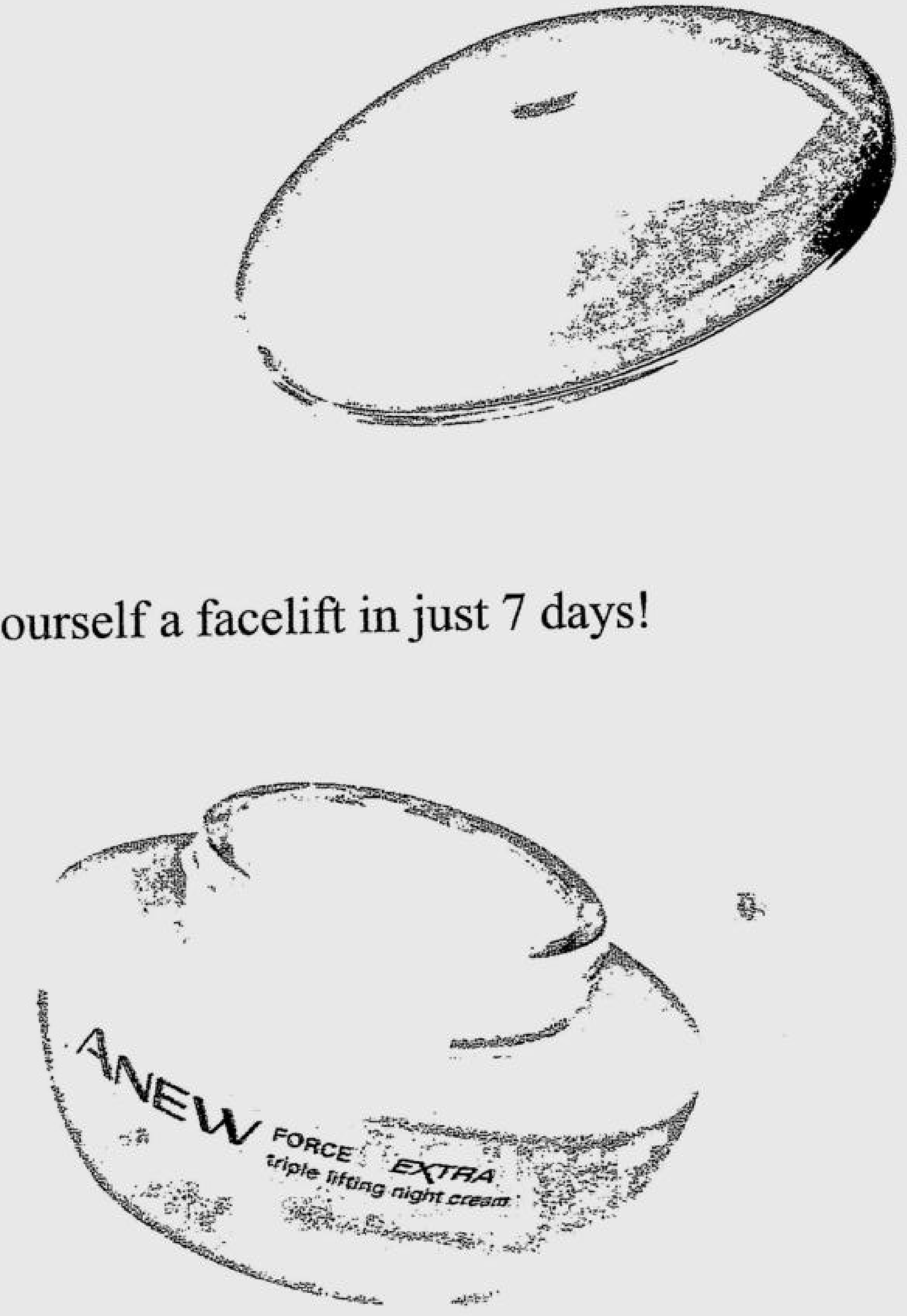

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'Wish ko Lang' waves its magic wand on TV

By Nestor U. Torre

CHANNEL 7's new show, "Wish Ko Lang" (Saturdays at 4 p.m.) has gotten favorable response from viewers because of its unique concept of granting selected viewers' wishes, whatever they may be.

Appropriate

Its combination of wish-fulfillment fantasy *and* reality is particularly appropriate to this country, where extreme need, escapism and magic realism have become unlikely but comfortable bedfellows.

Fact is, this idea isn't all that new, since this is what people here expect the government, specifically no less than the president, to do—wave an omnipotent magic wand and solve their direst problems, no sweat at all.

Also, some years back, whenever Sharon Cuneta used to throw a televised party for her fans to mark her latest anniversary in show biz, she used to reward some of her loyal followers by granting their wish to be gifted with TV sets, wheelchairs, and stuff.

Response

What "Wish Ko Lang" has done is to make the wish-fulfillment format a regular weekly feature on the tube, and the response has been particularly avid. On the show's first telecast, host and resident dispenser of goodies Bernadette Sembrano waved *her* magic wand and effected the resolution of these problems:

—An old woman suffering from leprosy (no less) was tearfully reunited with her heretofore uncaring children.

—A couple with 21 (count 'em) children were treated to a total make-over (complete with new dentures) and an all-expense-paid stay in a plush hotel—a welcome respite from their much-put-upon lives.

Insults

—And an underage housemaid was liberated, Cinderella-like, from her nasty, mean-spirited employers who treated her like dirt and paid her only with insults.

She was brought home to the province to be reunited with her grandmother, in a tearful scene that put to shame the most lachrymose sequence ever staged in any TV soap opera.

SEMBRANO. Dispenser of goodies.

As we viewed the 30-minute show, one part of us felt for the needy people whose wishes were being granted that day, and we were glad that the program was finally addressing their problems.

On the other hand, we also felt a growing sense of disquiet and unease, because we saw that, in a number of instances, the solutions offered and given were mere palliatives—and that, after the glow of Bernadette's magic wand had faded, those horrendous problems would rear their pointy, little heads again.

Dreary lives

Of course, the people behind the show will counter that those problems are too vast and deep for any program, no matter how well-meaning, to solve on a permanent basis. All that they wish to do is to add some brightness to their "wishers'" dreary lives—and, empathetically, to their viewers' own drab existence, as well.

We understand that, but we wonder if the show could sometimes take an extra step and effect a less superficial change?

Also, could it stress, not "magic" give-aways and 24-hour escapist thinking and longing, but the more long-lasting change that results from hard work, creativity, and making full use of new opportunities that the program might help provide?

This may be less magical and thrilling than what the show is doing now, but it would have a more positive and long-lasting effect on viewers' mind-set, don't you think?

Wish *ko lang* . . .

Judy Ann Santos is producers' favorite

By Remy M. Umerez

WHATEVER the outcome of her films at the box office, Judy Ann Santos remains the favorite of movie producers. She has a movie shown almost every month.

SANTOS. Bankable.

She may not be a consistent *takilya* queen but she's considered bankable because she has scored more hits than flops.

Reasons

Whenever her movies don't fare well at the box office, various reasons are cited. Wrong choice of leading man is one of them, as in the case of her team-up with Mikey Arroyo.

Judy Ann and Dingdong Dantes are envisioned as a perfect pair, but why the poor showing of "Akala Mo" at the box office? Deficient direction was the forever conclusion of some people who saw the movie.

It was different with "Magkapatid." Judy Ann quickly bounced back. It didn't matter if Christopher de Leon and Dingdong Dantes played support in the Manila filmfest entry. It was an acting bout between Sharon Cuneta and Judy Ann, who portrayed sisters.

There is such a thing called perfect timing and sensing one, Mother Lily immediately scheduled the immediate showing her new Judy-Ann-Cogie Domingo pairing. It is a light romantic drama offering titled "Pakisabi Na Lang . . . Mahal Kita."

If the title sounds very familiar, it is from another ditty popularized by Aiza Seguerra.

Good combination

It is a good combination, says supervising producer Joey Gosengfiao. "It is a dream come true. We never thought two stars from rival networks could get together in one movie. We consider it a big triumph, " he beams.

"Pakisabi Na Lang" is about a problem student whose ways are mended with the guidance and, eventually, the love a young lovely tutor. Cogie is the happy-go-lucky student and Judy Ann plays the patient substitute teacher.

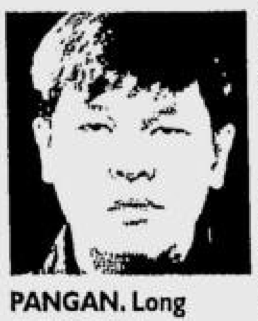
Director Boots Plata says that "Pakisabi Na Lang" is a *kilig* movie that has a simple message.

"We want to show that it is okay to be in love—but not too seriously when you're too young. Instead, you should strive hard to succeed!"

'Tick Tick...Boom!' opens on July 26

By Gloria P. Sicam

ATLANTIS Productions, the group that produced "Rent" last year, has another Jonathan Larson musical up its sleeve—"Tick, Tick...Boom." It has a cast of only three—Jett Pangan as the main character, Jon; Bituin Escalante as the women who come into Jon's life (but primarily his girlfriend), and Michael de Mesa as the men in Jon's life (but primarily his best friend).



PANGAN. Long monologues.

No break

This musical won't be easy for any of the actors—Jett *never* gets a break and is onstage for the entire one hour and 40 minutes of the musical. Bituin and Michael play roughly eight different characters each. Add, too, the twist of Michael having to play one of Bituin's characters sometime in the play.

"Tick, Tick... Boom" is the story of Jon, played by Jett, who is going through, in his words, a "pre-midlife crisis." He is bent on writing the musical that will "redefine Broadway," but is confronted by self-doubt and other demons when he fails to do this. He fears being a failure at 30, something a lot of people can relate to.

Why the title? Says director Bobby Garcia, "Because he's hearing this tick, tick . . . like a clock, like a time bomb's that's about to explode."

Will the audience cry, like they did in "Rent"? "It's not crying because of dying . . . if you do cry, it's because you can relate to how the relationship dissolves. It's about friendships and relationships, actually, kinda like 'Rent'..." Are there echoes of "Rent" here? "Musically, yes. It's like Sondheim—you recognize it to be Sondheim. That's how brilliant he is. You can recognize the music to be Jonathan Larson's. It's a style composers spend decades trying to acquire. But with him, in only two works, there's a sound that's distinctly Jonathan Larson. But it's sad that this is the extent of his work."

Milestone

How does Jett Pangan relate to the character he plays? "I think turning 30 is a milestone for a lot of people. It's a societal thing. You should've done something by the time you're 30. There was a point in my life when I was thinking that way. But after I turned 31, I realized... what was the rush all about? It did hit me, but not as seriously as Jon when he was trying to come to terms with it."

Michael de Mesa adds, "I think it's closer to people's hearts because everybody has to make a choice, one way or another, whether they're 20, or 30 or 40. And the choices we make make us the kind of people we are. It's something that will never leave you, making choices."

As for Bituin, she's excited. She gushes, "I'm so happy for the rock icons, *pare!* Jett Pangan, Basti Artadi... *sunod na diyan si* Pepe Smith! Jett's so good. First day of rehearsals, drop script *na siya*. And it's not easy material for him, because it's a narrative, it's really long monologues.

Steamy song

"He's really good and we have this really hot, steamy song. I got to kiss Jesus Basti (when she played Magdalene in Atlantis' "Jesus Christ Superstar") and now I get to seduce Mr. Pangan. And I have the hottest boyfriend. I have it all!"

So, is that the reason why she agreed to do the musical? "It's Larson. And when I heard the music at rehearsals . . . *ang ganda*."

"Tick, Tick... Boom" runs from July 26 to Aug. 11 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza bldg., Makati.

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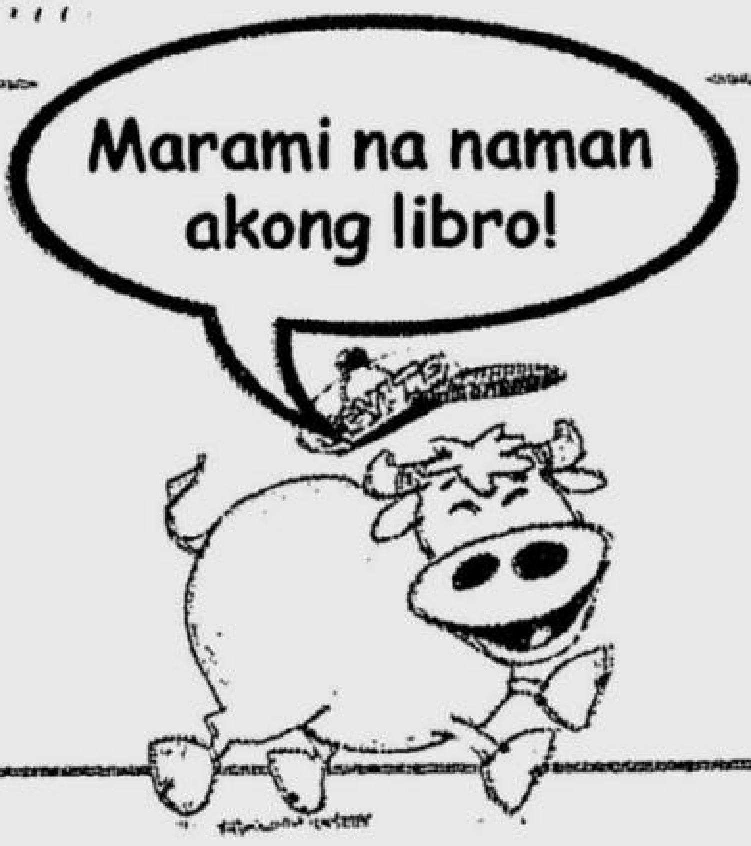
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Book-loving kids' day

By Margaux C. Ortiz

GOOD news to all you young bookworms and self-confessed literary enthusiasts!

On July 16, the country celebrates National Children's Book Day (NCBD). This special day is celebrated every third Tuesday of July to commemorate the anniversary of the publication of Jose Rizal's "The Monkey and the Turtle" in Trubner's *Oriental Record* in London.

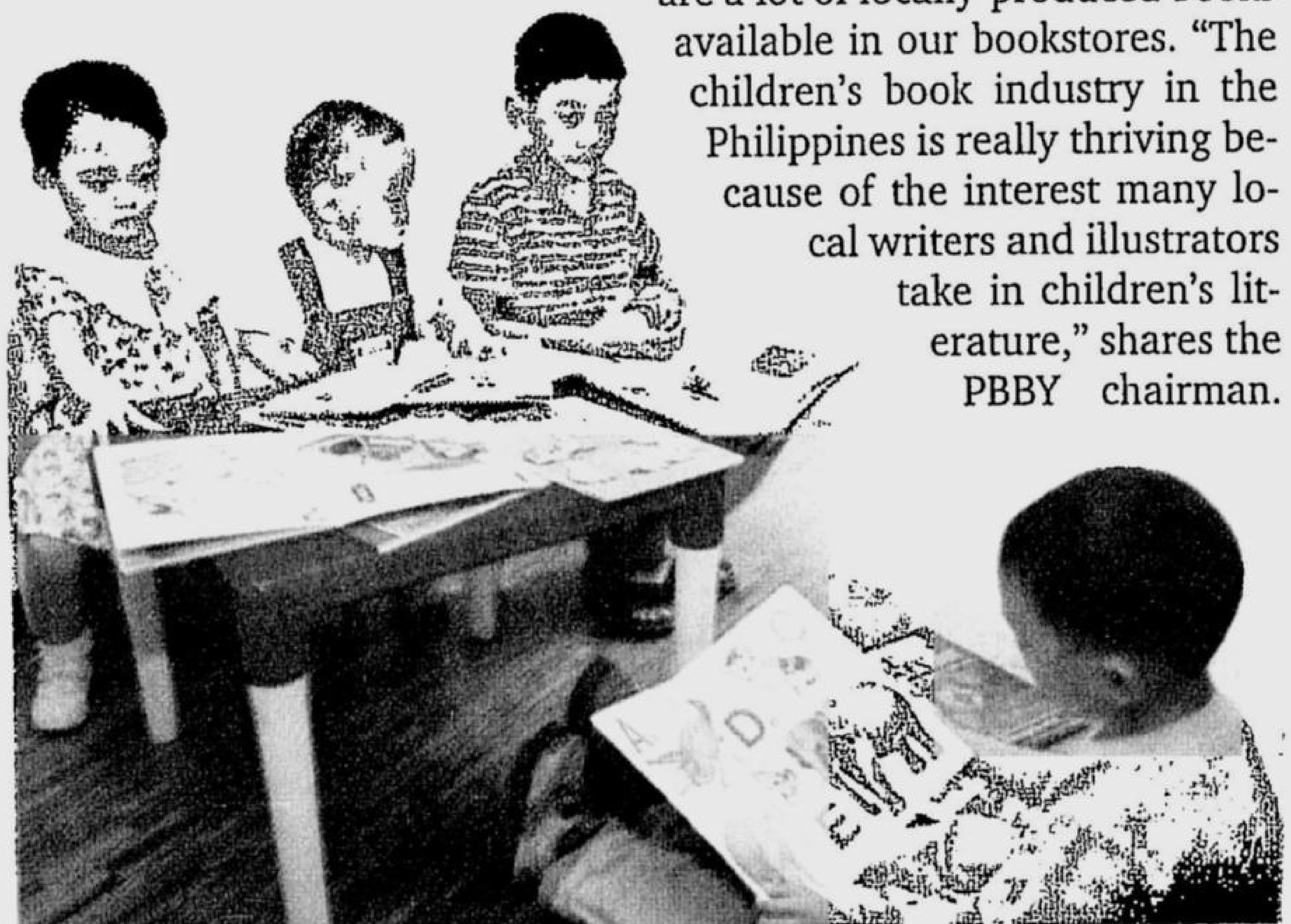
The Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) leads the annual celebration of National Children's Book Day. It was in fact the people behind PBBY who lobbied for the law declaring the yearly celebration of NCBD almost 20 years ago.

Importance of NCBD

According to PBBY Chairman Beaulah Taguiwalo, this special day highlights the important role books play in enriching the young Filipino's mind and soul.

"With a lot of distractions around us like malls and video games and tons of advertisements, it is essential to instill in a Filipino child the merits of sitting quietly in a corner and reading good books," says Beaulah.

Beaulah adds that NCBD also aims to create an awareness that there are a lot of locally-produced books available in our bookstores. "The children's book industry in the Philippines is really thriving because of the interest many local writers and illustrators take in children's literature," shares the PBBY chairman. "When PBBY was formed 20 years ago, there was no identifiable children's book publisher."



AFTERNOON DELIGHT. Children of different ages happily browse through their favorite books. ROMY HOMILLADA

Augie Rivera of the Kuwentista ng mga Tsikiting (KUTING) agrees, adding that many children's literature enthusiasts say that we have reached the "Golden Age of Children's Literature" in the Philippines.

"NCBD is an opportunity to promote quality children's books we produce in the country," relates the chairman of KUTING, a group of writers for children. "This annual celebration also creates an appreciation of our local children's story writers and illustrators devoted to their craft."

Augie adds that writers and illustrators in the Philippines are aiming to publish a lot of good books for today's children. "So when these kids grow up, they can look back and say that they were able to have their fill of beautiful, local children's books," he smiles, "Unfortunately, I wasn't able to experience that."

NCBD Activities

To celebrate a day as special as National Children's Book Day, the PBBY has organized a week-long series of activities from July 15-19. These include film showings based on popular children's books, exhibits and awarding ceremonies recognizing the efforts of outstanding writers and illustrators.

"We're most excited about the school tours we organized with Anvil Publishing," says PBBY Chairman Beaulah. "We've teamed up KUTING, Ilustrador Ng Kabataan (INK) and Alitaptap to give students workshops on creative writing, illustrating and storytelling."

INK President Ouie Badelles says these activities should encourage Filipinos to talk less and visualize more. "Imagination, inspired by a love of books, will lead to more potent action for inner and outer positive change," relates Ouie. "Our lives will be more interesting and more enriched that way."

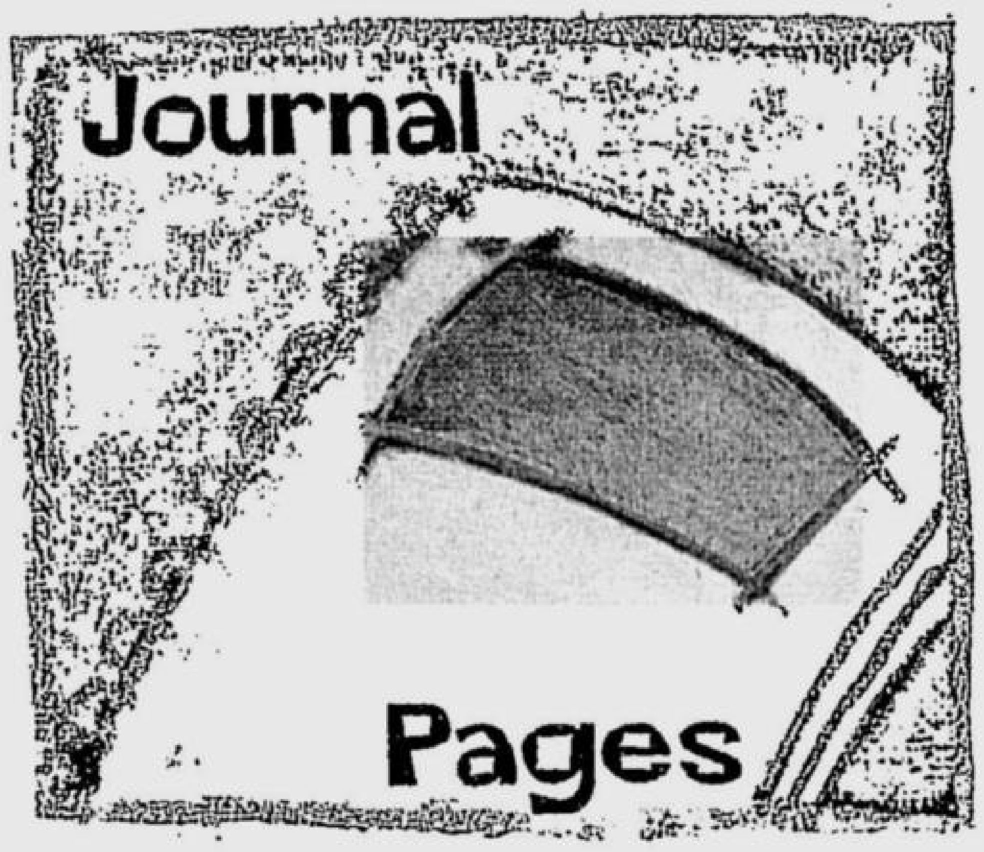
A Bit of Advice

Beaulah offers this advice for Filipino kids on NCBD. "Instead of buying just a single book, buy two books and give one to a less privileged child," she shares. "A really nice first book, not a tattered or hand-me-down, will really be appreciated and cherished."

So spread goodwill and the cheer on National Children's Book Day. Put in mind how lucky we are that we have such a day to celebrate. And of course, don't forget to read, read and read!

For more information and updates on NCBD activities, please contact PBBY at 372-3548 or 49 and look for Jennifer Naguit. Also, please see the schedule of NCBD activities on page 3.

Book/ p. 3



Camping at Camp Explore

By Emanuel Cruz
Community of Learners, Quezon City

IT WAS a long and dusty journey to Antipolo. We arrived at the site after 2 1/2 hours and immediately played fun games. I was able to meet new friends like Sophie, Andie, Jam, Alfie, Sabs and Noelle.

The next day, we had to look for and cook our own breakfast. We searched for clues and learned how to use the compass. Our group was able to get rice, egg, hotdog and corned beef.

That evening, we went stargazing at the top of a hill. We used a telescope to find Venus, Mars and Saturn.

CAMP EXPLORE

The next day, I joined Art and Cooking activities. It was fun to make a tie-dye shirt. Also, brownies and pizza for merienda. We played tug-of-war and *palo sebo*, and ran through an obstacle course. Our team, the Pythons, won against my older brother's team, the Hoot-Hoot, in the tug-of-war. We came in second in the *palo sebo*. No winner was proclaimed in the obstacle course.

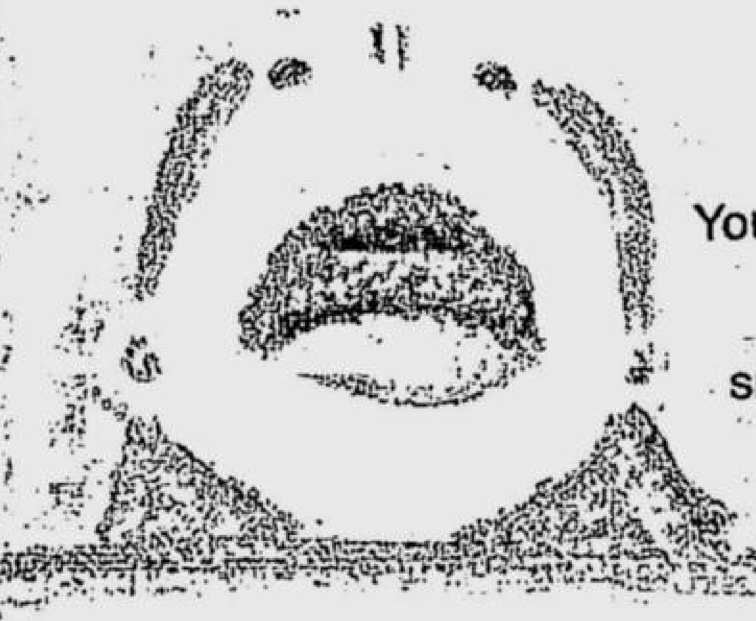
The final morning, we played games called Spider Web, Mine Field, Slide of Life and Hanging Bridge. I enjoyed the Slide of LIfe the most because one had to slide on a rope all the way down to the ground while harnessed tightly. The feeling of sliding was like flying.

From this experience, I learned how fun and important it is to make new friends.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers



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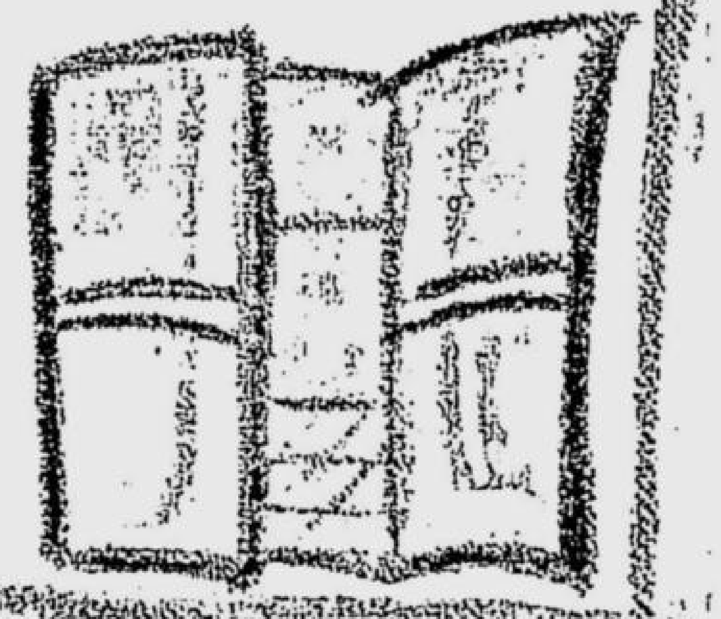


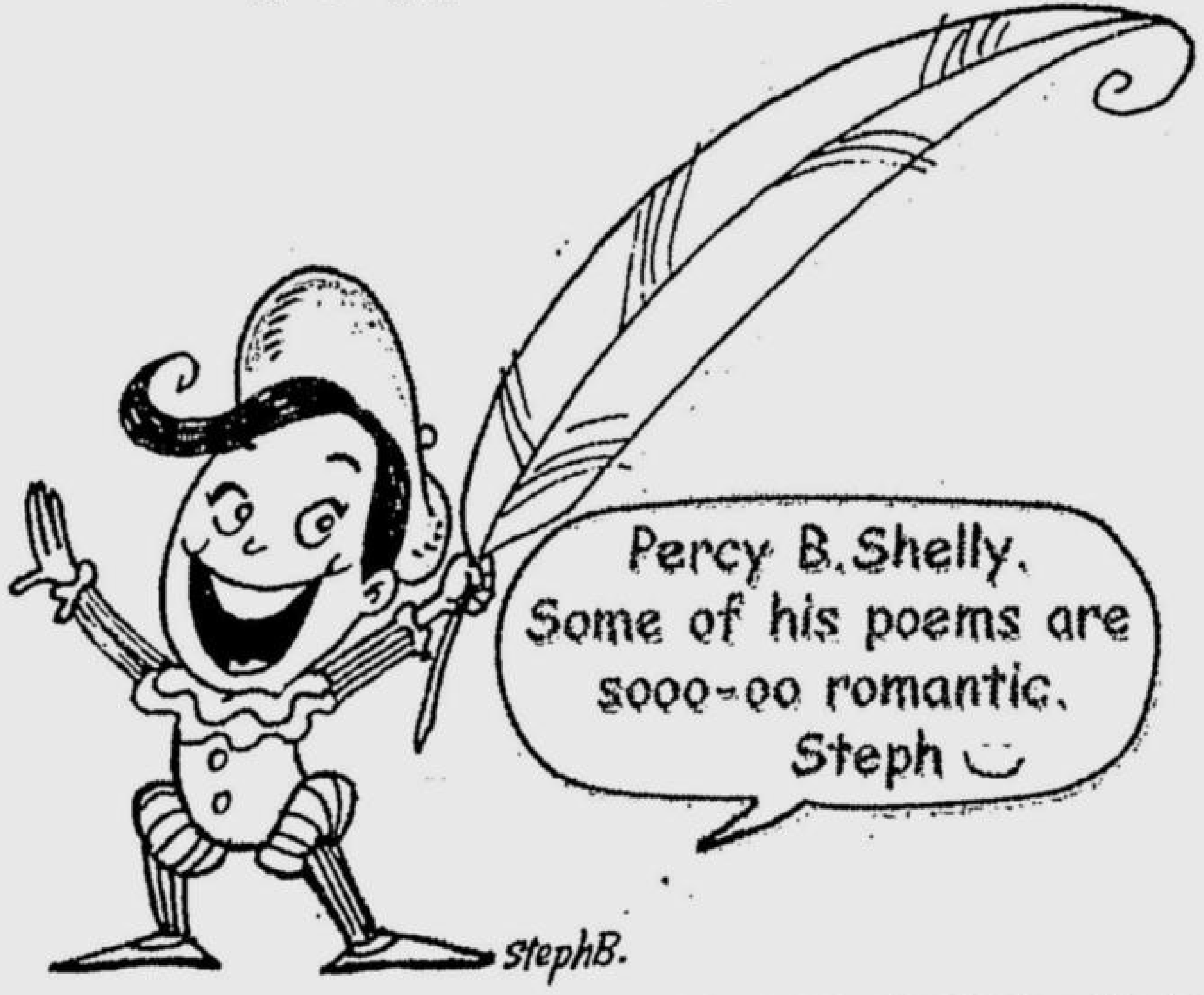
Poet in the Making

DEAR Editor,

I admire the poems that you post. I'd like to be a famous poet someday.

Now that it's the rainy season, I'd love to work on some poems. Some of my inspirations would be the rain, my family, what I see out my window and my puppy.

May I ask you something, Ms Steph? Who is your favorite poet?—**LORISSE "REIN" RAMIREZ**, Grade 6, St. Francis of Assissi College, Las Piñas City.



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Book... (from page 1)

NCBD activities

JULY 1-31, 2002 **Museo Pambata** • Exhibit of finalists in the NCBD poster making contest•Exhibit of original art from Nick Joaquin's "Stories for Groovy Kids" •Exhibit of 2000 IBBY Honour List Books

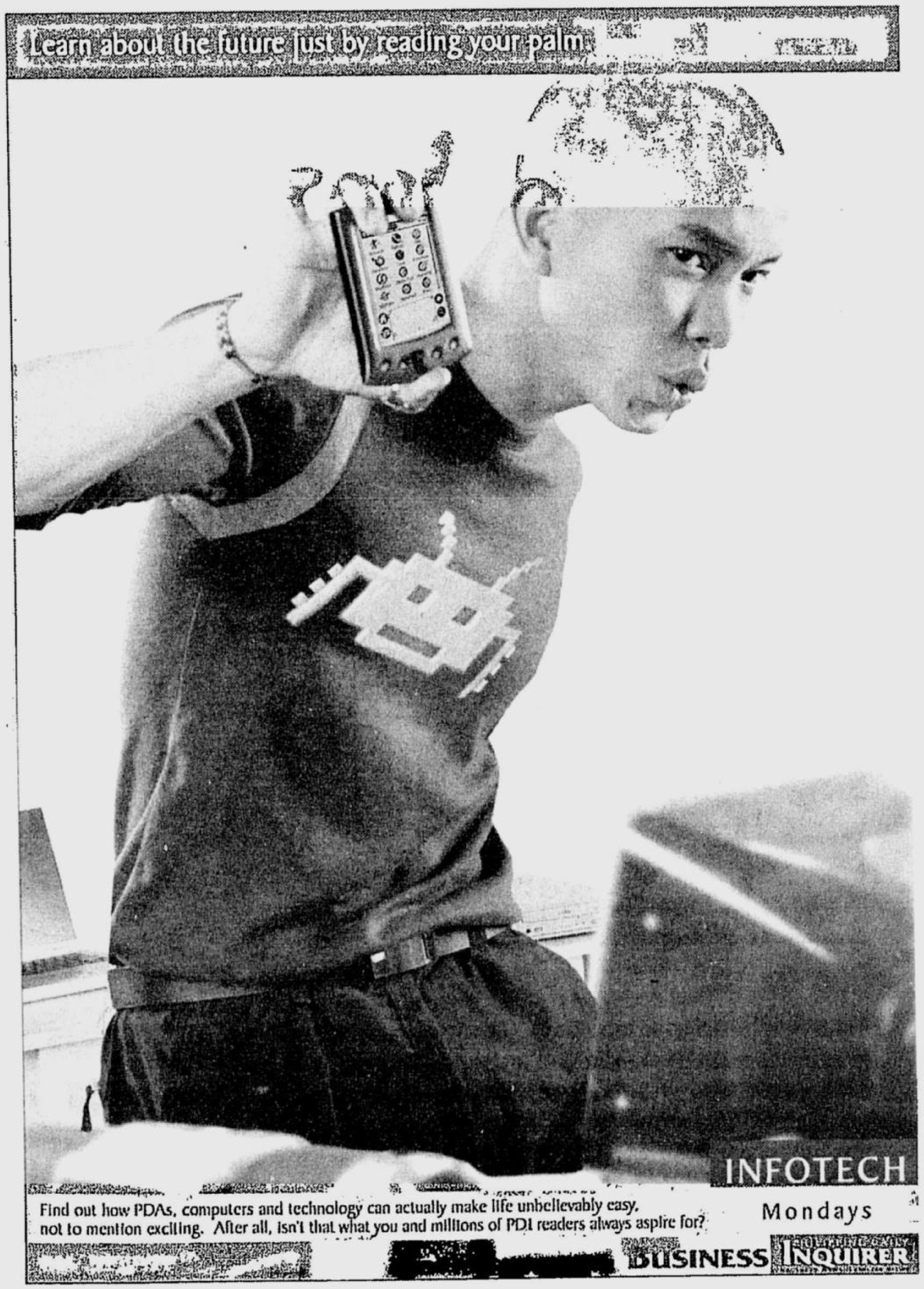
MONDAY July 15, 2002 **Various Schools** 9-12 a.m. and 2-5 p.m.: •Storytelling (Alitaptap) and Workshop (Ang Ink) •Book Display •Book Sale •PBBY-Museo School Visits (Museo Pambata Mobile Library)

TUESDAY July 16, 2002 **Various Schools** 9-12 a.m. and 2-5 pm: •Storytelling (Alitaptap) and Workshop (Kuting) •Book Display •Book Sale •PBBY-Museo School Visits (Museo Pambata Mobile Library) **Museo Pambata** 9 a.m. to 12 noon: •NCBD Opening Ceremonies **Cultural Center of the Philippines** •Film Showing—8:30-10 a.m./1:30-3:00 p.m. for kindergarten to grade 3: Dr Seuss (The Cat in the Hat Comes Back, There's a Wocket in my Pocket, Fox in Socks) and Batibot Films; 10-12 a.m./3-5 p.m for grades 3 to 5: Charlotte's Web and Manik Buangsi; 2 to 4 p.m.: •NCBD Awarding Ceremonies: •Opening of Exhibit of Children's Book Illustrations

WEDNESDAY July 17, 2002 **Various Schools** 9-12 a.m. and 2-5 pm: •Storytelling (Alitaptap) and Workshop (Ang Ink) •Book Display •Book Sale•PBBY-Museo School Visits (Museo Pambata Mobile Library) **Museo Pambata** 9 a.m. to 11 noon: Lecture-workshop on publishing (Porn-Anong Niyomka Horikawa) • **Cultural Center of the Philippines** •Film Showing—8:30-10 a.m./1:30-3:00 p.m. for kindergarten to grade 3: Arthur's Eyes, Are You the Forest King? and Musical Max and Other Musical Stories; 10-12 a.m. and 3-5 p.m for grades 3 to 5: Where the Red Fern Grows •Exhibit of Children's Book Illustrations (until August 15, 2002)

THURSDAY July 18, 2002 **Various Schools** 9-12 a.m. and 2-5 pm: •Storytelling (Alitaptap) •Workshop (Kuting) •Book Display •Book Sale •PBBY-Museo School Visits (Museo Pambata Mobile Library) **Museo Pambata** 9 a.m. to 11 noon: Lecture-workshop on publishing (Porn-Anong Niyomka Horikawa) at U.P. Diliman • **Cultural Center of the Philippines** •Film Showing—8:30-10 a.m./1:30-3:00 p.m. for kindergarten to grade 3:The Maurice Sendak Library (Where the Wild Things Are, The Nutshell Kids, In the Night Kitchen, Getting to Know Maurice Sendak), Adarna Trilogy I (Chenelyn! Chenelyn!, PenPen de Sarapen, Papel de Liha); 10-12 a.m. and 3-5 p.m for grades 3 to 5: How to Eat Fried Worms and Jacob Have I Loved •Exhibit of Children's Book Illustrations

FRIDAY July 19, 2002 **Various Schools** 9-12 a.m. and 2-5 pm: •Storytelling (Alitaptap) •Workshop (Ang INK) •Book Display •Book Sale •PBBY-Museo School Visits (Museo Pambata Mobile Library) **Museo Pambata** • **Cultural Center of the Philippines** •Film Showing—8:30-10 a.m./1:30-3:00 p.m. for kindergarten to grade 3: The Paper Bag Princess, the Adventures of Corduroy, Are You the Forest King?; 10-12 a.m. and 3-5 p.m for grades 3 to 5: Stone Fox and Adarna Trilogy 2 (Ang Pambihirang Buhok ni Raquel, Nemo) •Exhibit of Children's Book Illustrations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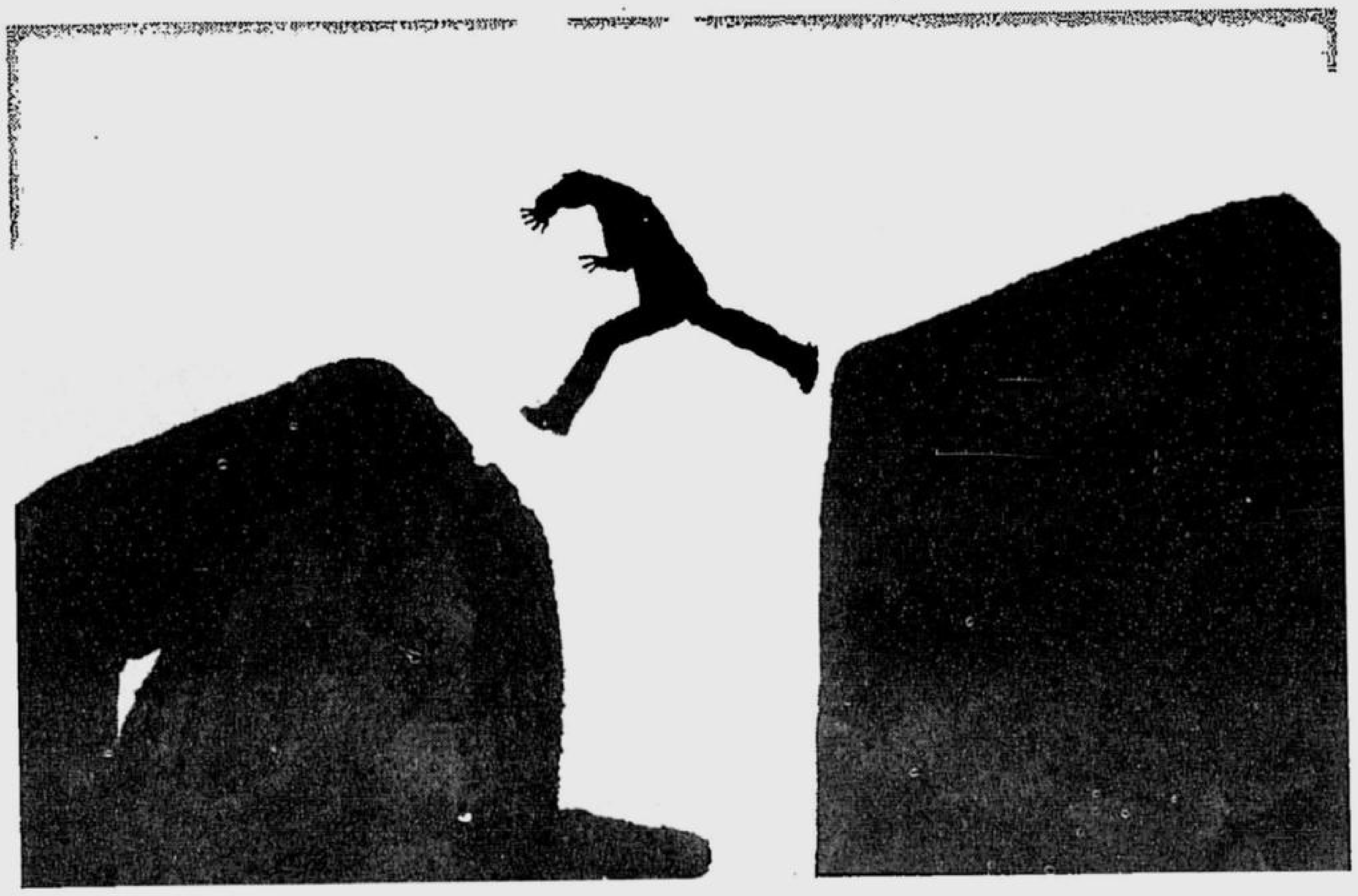
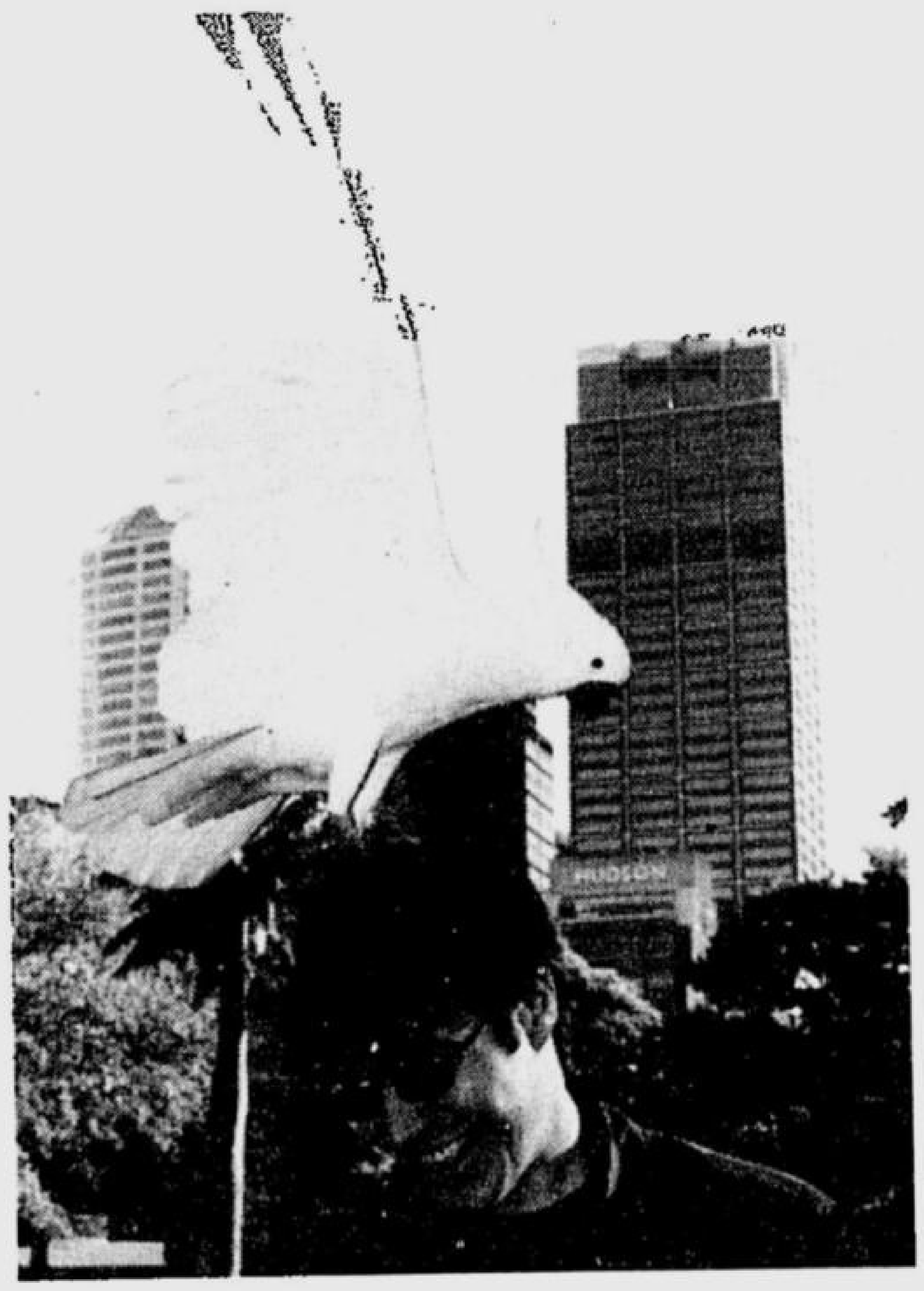


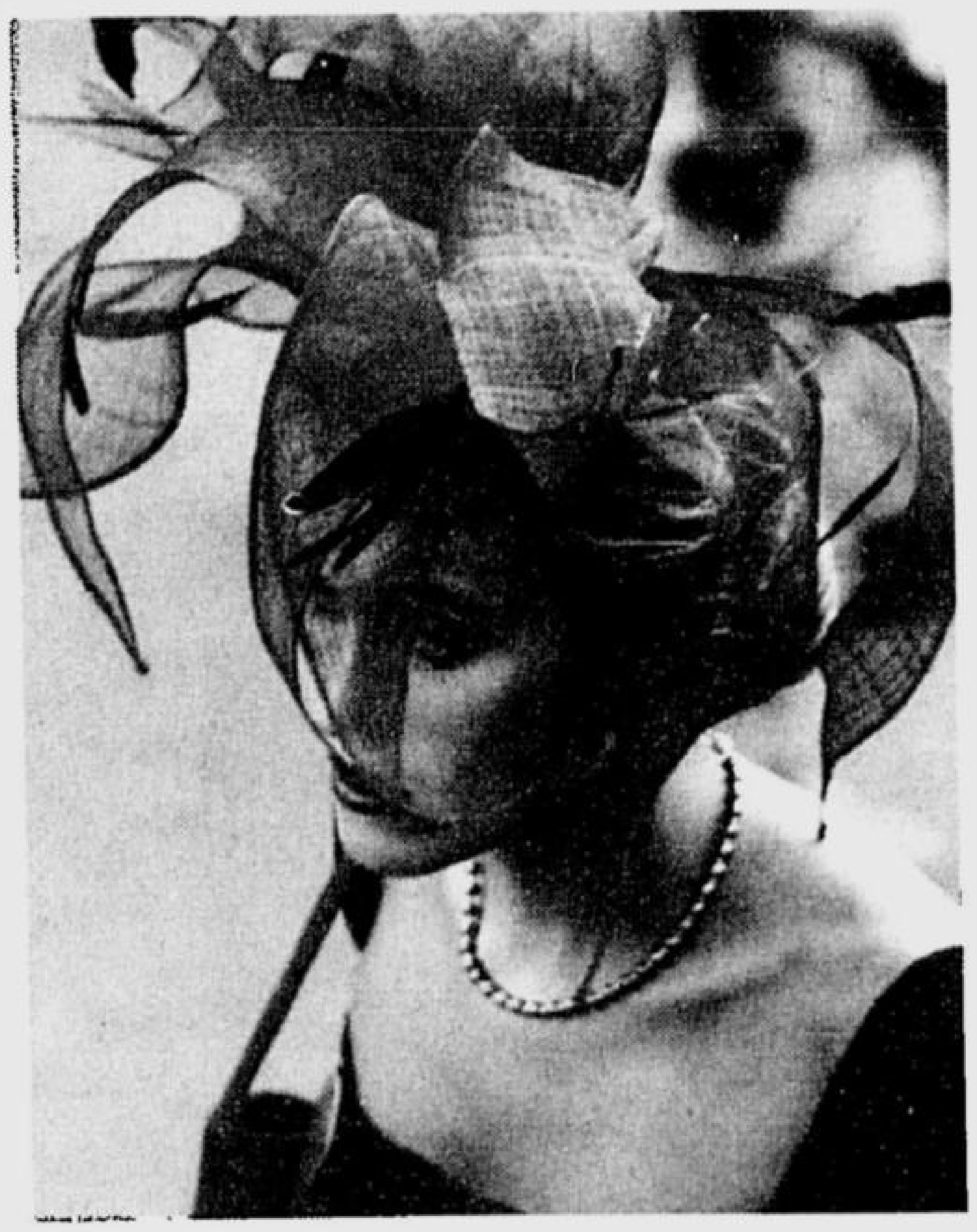
A Jump for the Longest Day

A REVELLER leaps from stone to stone on the day of the summer solstice at Stonehenge. Thousands of people travelled to Stonehenge to watch the sun rise on the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere. *Reuters*



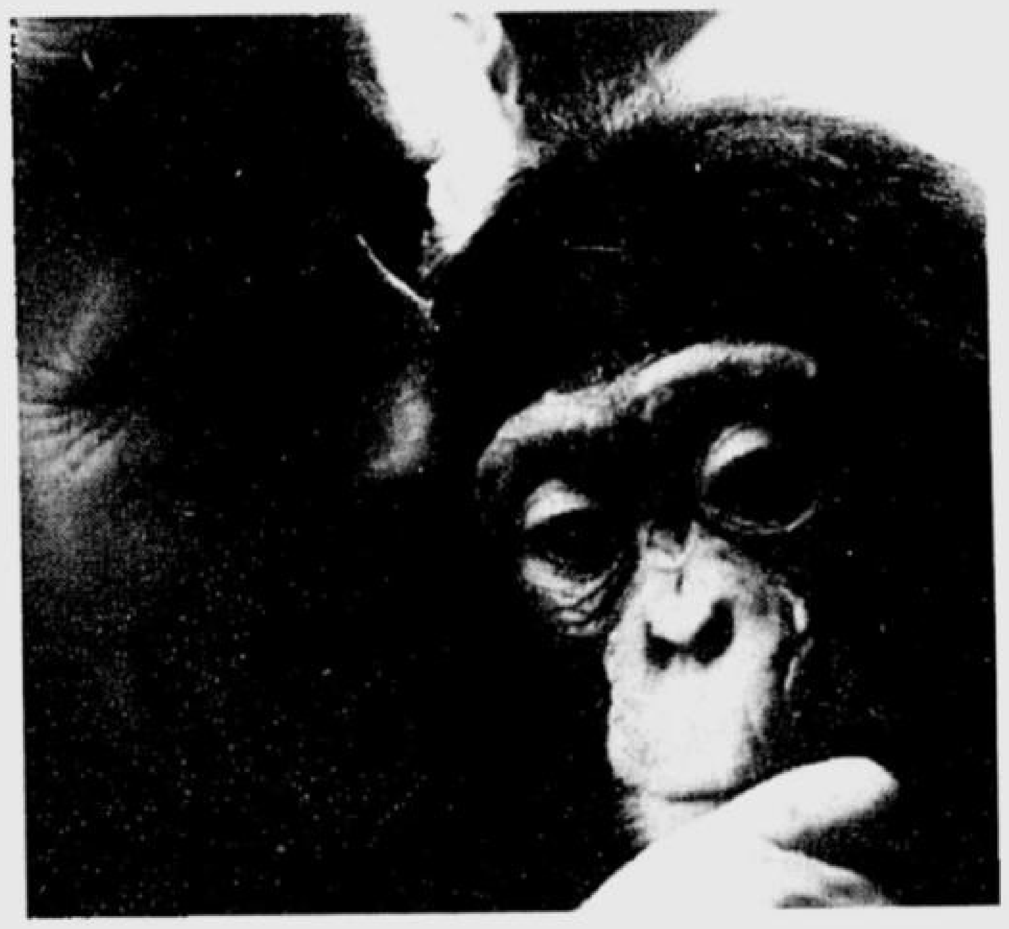
Hair-nest?

THIS sulphur-crested cockatoo (Cacatua galerita) is actually warding off an inquisitive tourist who gets too near while the bird is feeding. During the southern winter the playful parrots gather in flocks throughout Sydney's parklands when they are not breeding. *AFP*



Blooming Bonnet

WHO needs a pompom to cheer with when you have a nice pink petal hat? This woman is going to watch the annual Royal horseracing meeting in Ascot. *AP*



Saved for Sweet Waters

A TWO-YEAR-OLD chimpanzee named "Zee" is rescued from an Abu Dhabi pet shop and arrives in Nairobi into the friendly arms of Annie Olivecrona. He will join 24 other chimpanzees at the Sweet Waters sanctuary near Nanyuki, Kenya which Olivecrona manages. *Reuters*

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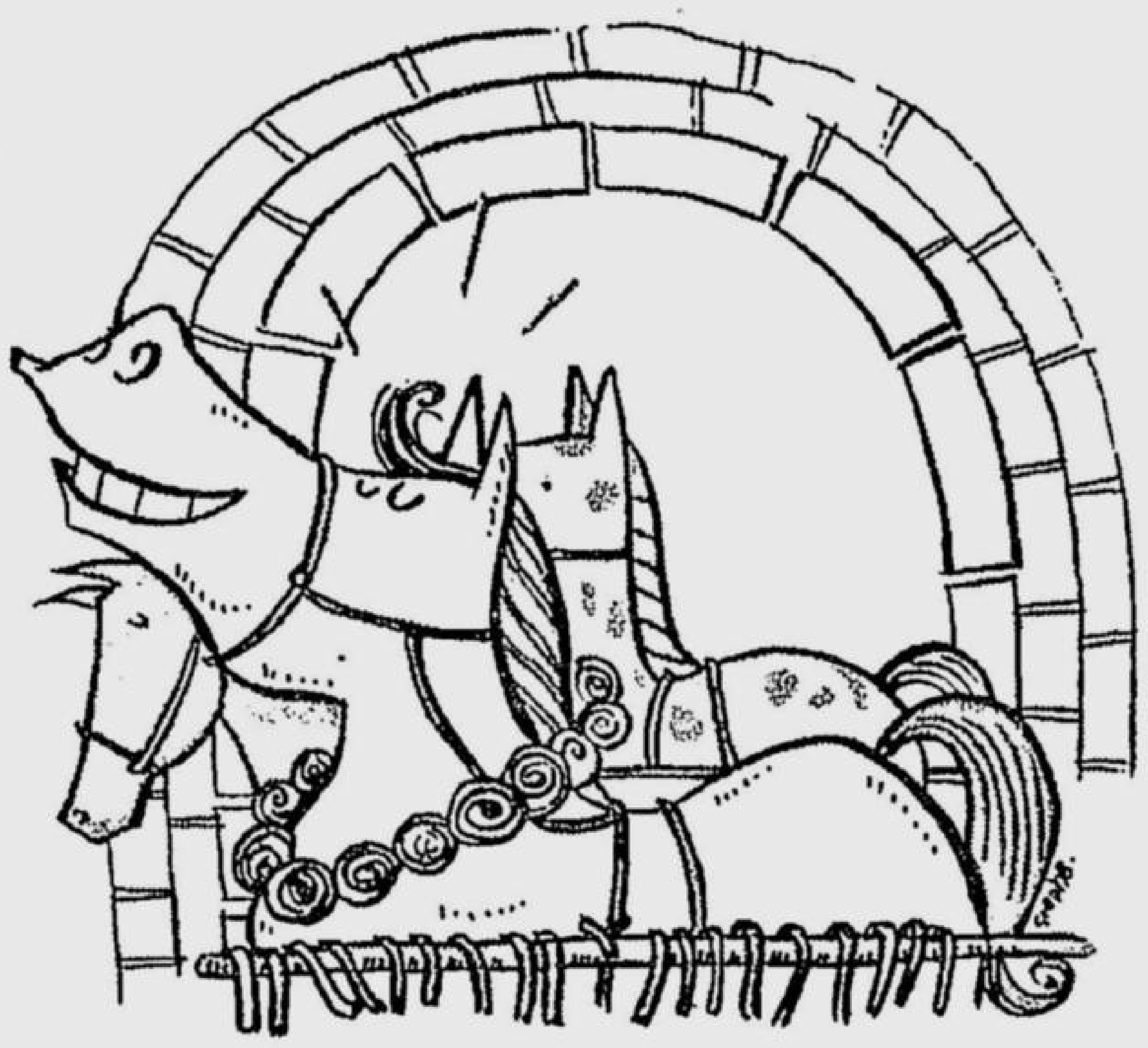
(s02)

Igme's horse was going to be part of the Philippine's first inaugural parade. But he had a fear of chickens which could ruin it for Igme and General Emilio Aguinaldo. Find out what Igme does to prevent mayhem from happening

Igme and his White Horse



Story by J.E. Royeca
Illustrations by Steph Bravo

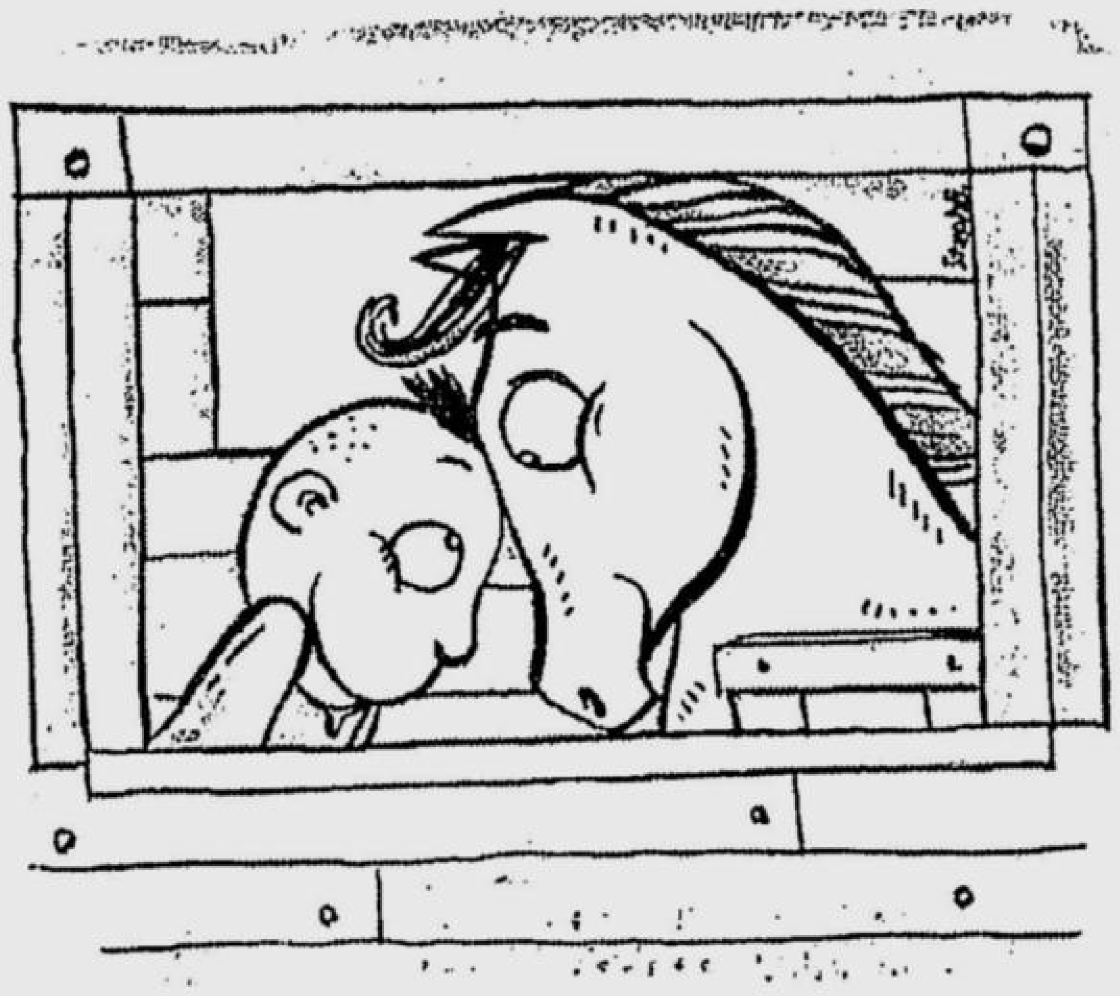
IGME'S WHITE HORSE could now run very fast. He called him Puti, the word for "white" in Filipino. Puti could run very swiftly now and easily avoided rocks and other obstacles in their path.

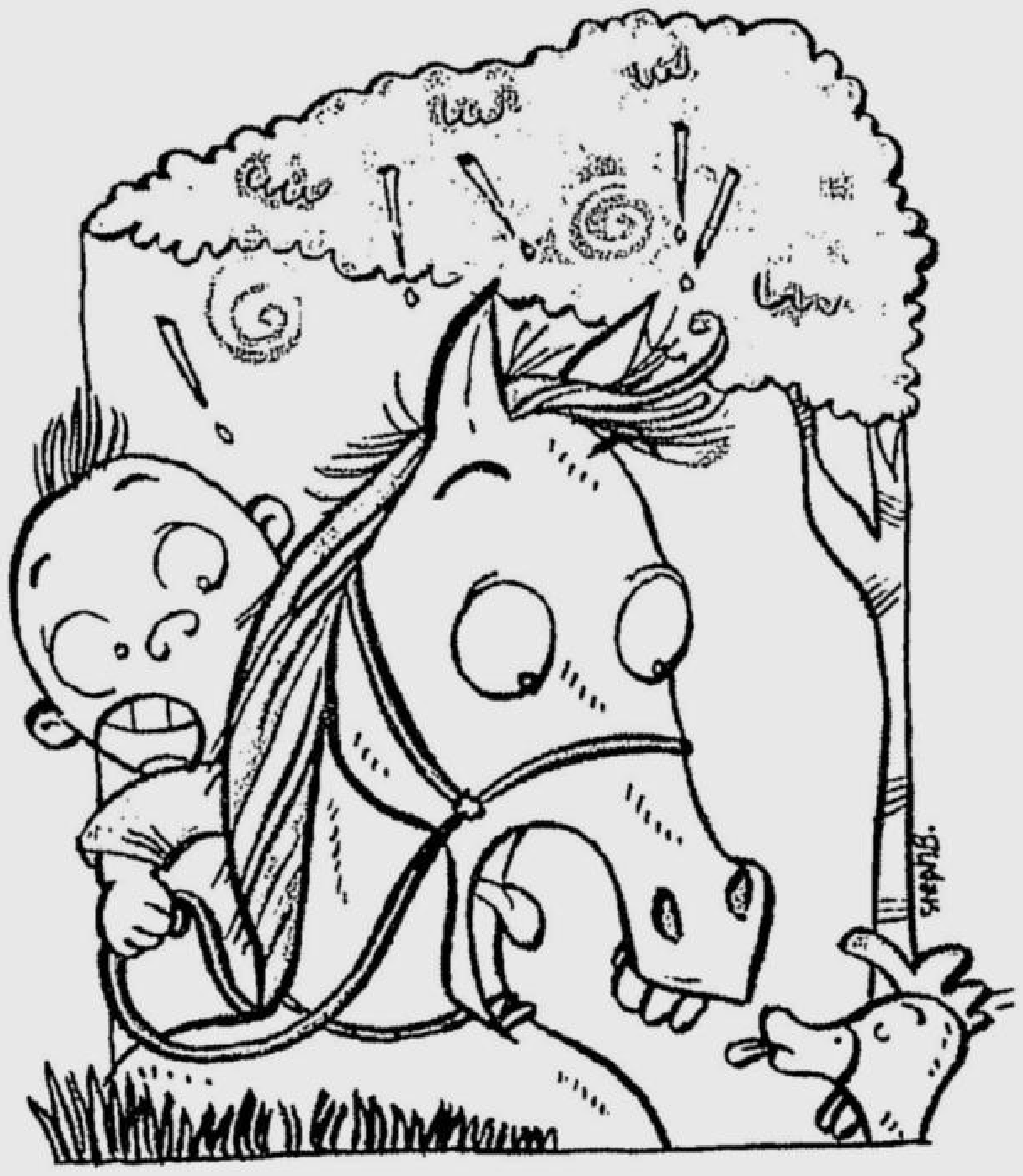
"Hiya!" commanded Igme as he tapped Puti's back. The horse leaped and galloped around the spacious backyard. There were many trees and grasses in Igme's backyard where their horses could eat their meals.

"Avoid it, Puti!" Igme told him' when a rabbit crossed their path. Puti did avoid it.

Igme had been training Puti for several months now. His *tatay* told Igme that he should teach and take care of Puti because he would become his one day.

Igme's father was a *kutsero* or rig driver so Igme learned to ride horses early. At 10 years old, he was already good. He could now make horses run fast and jump.





"IGME!" his *tatay* called him from the front yard of their house.

"Puti has done well, hasn't he?" Mang Pedring said as Puti and Igme approached.

"Yes sir," Igme proudly said.

"Good. He will be used in pulling a carriage for tomorrow's parade."

"Tomorrow's parade?" Igme was surprised.

"Yes," Mang Pedring answered. "Why? Is there any problem?"

Igme scratched his head. "Well, you know...Puti is still afraid of chickens."

Mang Pedring looked around. "Is that why I don't see any chickens around?"

"I gathered them in their cages before I trained Puti," Igme said sheepishly.

Igme had been trying to cure Puti of his fear of chickens. But despite his efforts, Puti still freaked whenever he saw chickens and chicks.

Just last week Aling Nena—-Igme's mother—- inadvertently let their chickens out while Igme and Puti were training. Two of the hens had chicks. When Puti saw them, he ran off while Igme was saddled on his back. They ended up in the rice fields.

"What if Puti sees chickens tomorrow while pulling the carriage?" Igme asked his tatay.

"I hope not," was all Mang Pedring could say.

LOTS of people had started to pour into town. Preparations were being made for the inauguration of the Republic of the Philippines inside the church of Barasoain the next day, January 23, 1899.

A *republic* is an independent nation which has its own national flag, national anthem, and government. General Emilio Aguinaldo would also be proclaimed the next day as President of the Republic of the Philippines.

After the inauguration, there would be a big and colorful parade in front of the church. The generals, soldiers, heads of several towns and provinces, and others with important positions would parade before General Aguinaldo to recognize and give him due respect as the President of the nation.

Igme always saw the national flag every time he and Puti passed by Barasoain church and the church of Malolos. He had heard the national anthem during an affair in Barasoain church last week. And he had already seen General Emilio and the other generals in town several times.

Before he went to sleep, Igme wished that Puti would not see any chickens while pulling the carriage during the parade. His *tatay* would bring him along to help ride and look after the horses.

NEXT morning, people poured into the streets and plaza of Malolos. There were decorations along the streets, triumphal arches of bamboo and palm leaves, national flags unfurled in

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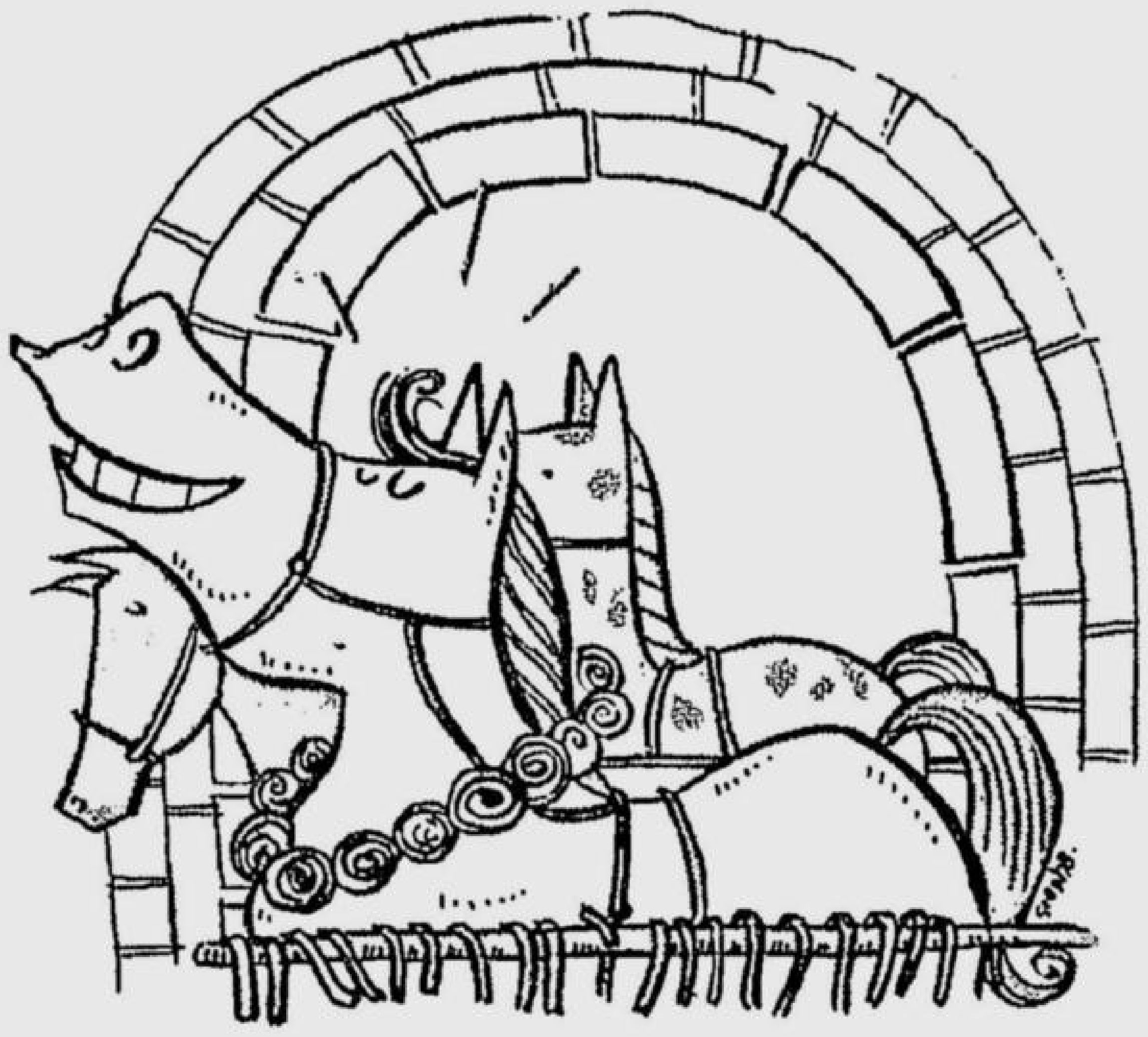

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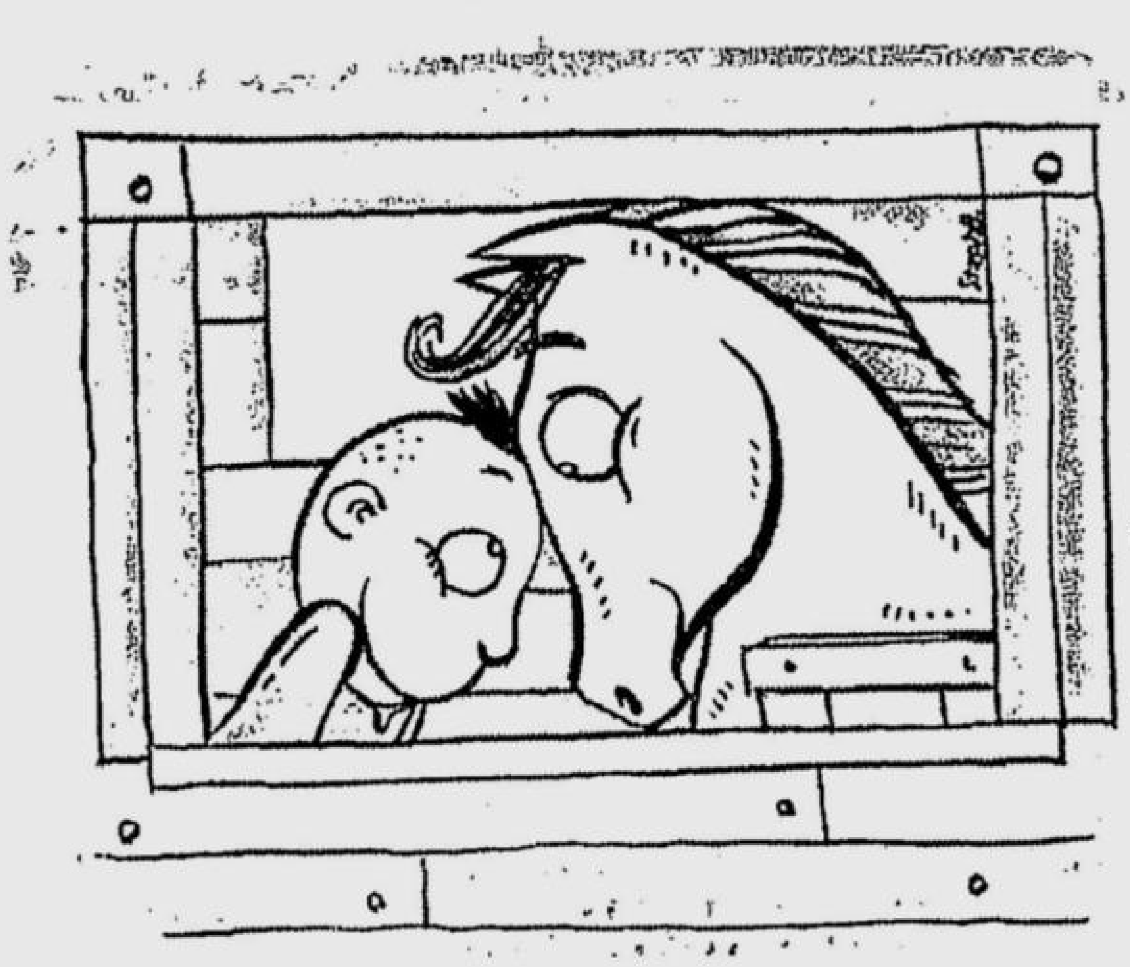
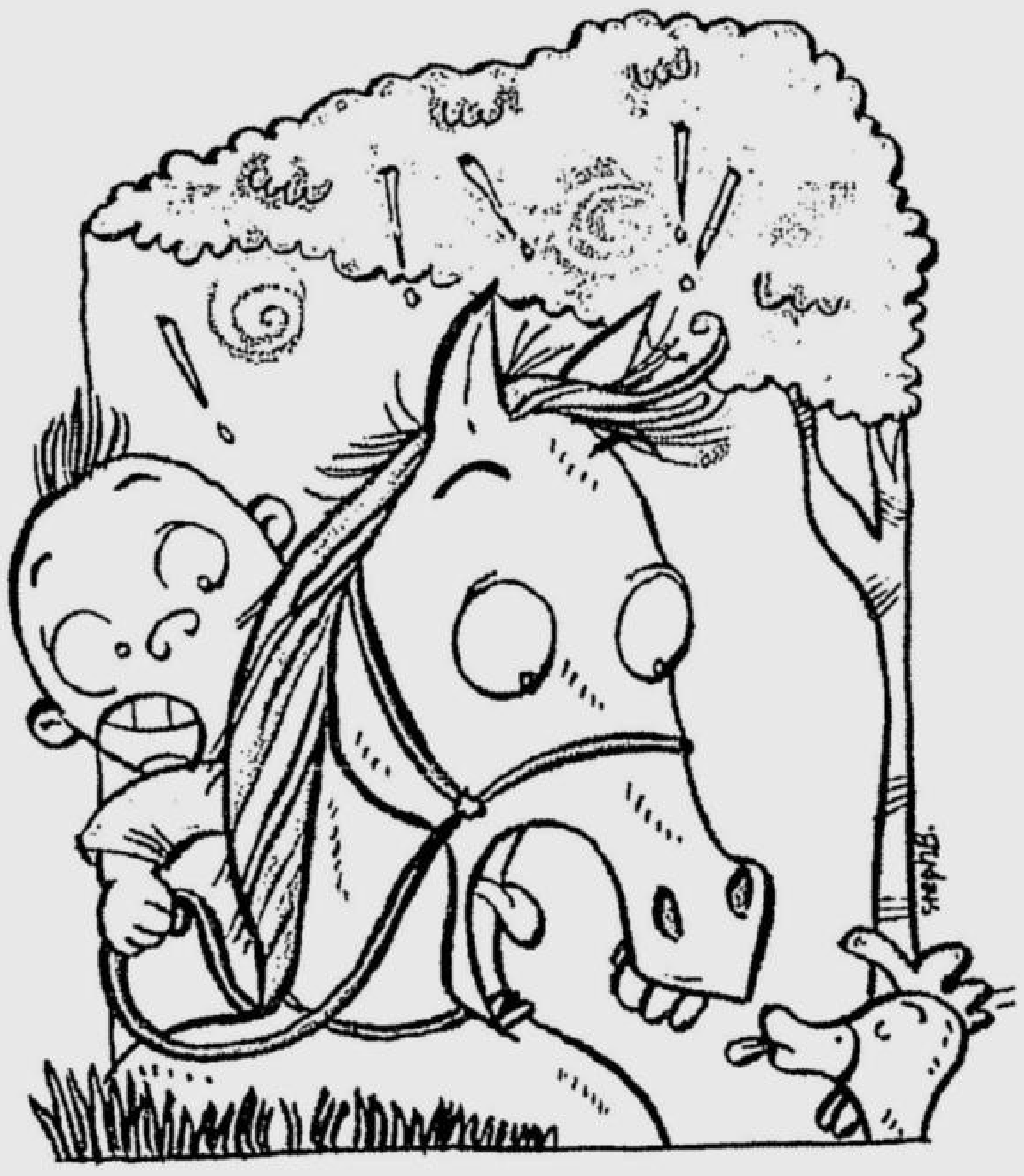
"Hiya!" commanded Igme as he tapped Puti's back. The horse leaped and galloped around the spacious backyard. There were many trees and grasses in Igme's backyard where their horses could eat their meals.

"Avoid it, Puti!" Igme told him' when a rabbit crossed their path. Puti did avoid it.

Igme had been training Puti for several months now. His *tatay* told Igme that he should teach and take care of Puti because he would become his one day.

Igme's father was a *kutsero* or rig driver so Igme learned to ride horses early. At 10 years old, he was already good. He could now make horses run fast and jump.





"IGME!" his *tatay* called him from the front yard of their house.

"Puti has done well, hasn't he?" Mang Pedring said as Puti and Igme approached.

"Yes sir," Igme proudly said.

"Good. He will be used in pulling a carriage for tomorrow's parade."

"Tomorrow's parade?" Igme was surprised.

"Yes," Mang Pedring answered. "Why? Is there any problem?"

Igme scratched his head. "Well, you know...Puti is still afraid of chickens."

Mang Pedring looked around. "Is that why I don't see any chickens around?"

"I gathered them in their cages before I trained Puti," Igme said sheepishly.

Igme had been trying to cure Puti of his fear of chickens. But despite his efforts, Puti still freaked whenever he saw chickens and chicks.

Just last week Aling Nena—-Igme's mother—inadvertently let their chickens out while Igme and Puti were training. Two of the hens had chicks. When Puti saw them, he ran off while Igme was saddled on his back. They ended up in the rice fields.

"What if Puti sees chickens tomorrow while pulling the carriage?" Igme asked his tatay.

"I hope not," was all Mang Pedring could say.

LOTS of people had started to pour into town. Preparations were being made for the inauguration of the Republic of the Philippines inside the church of Barasoain the next day, January 23, 1899.

A *republic* is an independent nation which has its own national flag, national anthem, and government. General Emilio Aguinaldo would also be proclaimed the next day as President of the Republic of the Philippines.

After the inauguration, there would be a big and colorful parade in front of the church. The generals, soldiers, heads of several towns and provinces, and others with important positions would parade before General Aguinaldo to recognize and give him due respect as the President of the nation.

Igme always saw the national flag every time he and Puti passed by Barasoain church and the church of Malolos. He had heard the national anthem during an affair in Barasoain church last week. And he had already seen General Emilio and the other generals in town several times.

Before he went to sleep, Igme wished that Puti would not see any chickens while pulling the carriage during the parade. His *tatay* would bring him along to help ride and look after the horses.

NEXT morning, people poured into the streets and plaza of Malolos. There were decorations along the streets, triumphal arches of bamboo and palm leaves, national flags unfurled in

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

any houses, and musical bands that kept play-ng martial music. The town and people were fit-ngly attired for the occasion.

A new republic was born, General Aguinaldo ad been sworn in as President and the parade egan. General Aguinaldo and all others inside e church came out to witness the celebra-ons.

Mang Pedring, Igme, and Puti were there as articipants in the parade. Aling Nena was atching them joyously. Puti was in front, be-de another horse. Behind them were two more orses. Tied to them was a carriage carrying four rovincial chiefs. Mang Pedring and Igme were eated on the front of the carriage.

Igme was frightened when he saw some ladies ringing along chickens. They were going to the ear of the Barasoain church and were to pass by front of Puti. They would cook those chickens r the feast to be held after the parade. Many eople were cooking chicken and *litson* because very home had their own celebrations for the stablishment of the republic. Aling Nena ooked this dawn some *sinigang* and fried chick-n.

Igme saw that Puti's eyes were getting bigger. he ladies with cages of live chickens were com-g now towards Puti. Some were cackling.

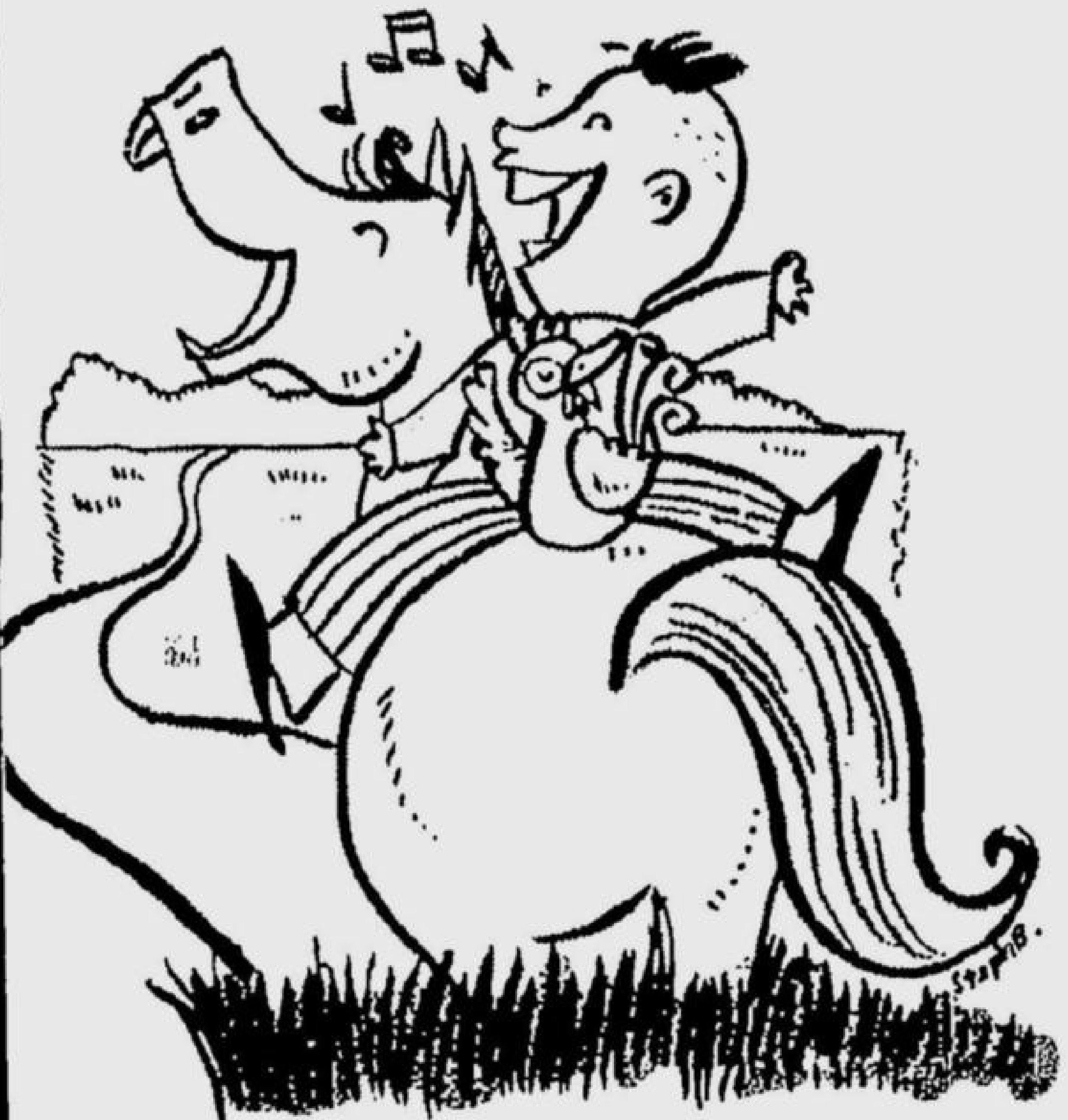
Igme decided to get off the carriage to com-rt Puti. He covered Puti's head with his cloak. uti was slowly calming down.

Igme heaved a sigh of relief as the ladies with e chickens passed them by. Then, he took the loak off Puti's head. The horse was calm now. gme quickly returned to his seat in front of the arriage.

Igme was very happy as they paraded in front f General Aguinaldo. He admired the General who was handsomely attired. As he was rejoicing together with the rest, he still worried that Puti might spot a chicken somewhere. But after they had passed the President, he felt much comfort. Their part in the parade was over. Igme was so happy that he felt like embracing Puti. Tomorrow, he would again teach and urge him not to be afraid of chickens anymore.

J.E. writes historical fiction for kids and just loves anything about Jose Rizal.

***Steph's** very good friends include Renita, and Chris, her best friend, whom she fondly calls Pawpaw.*



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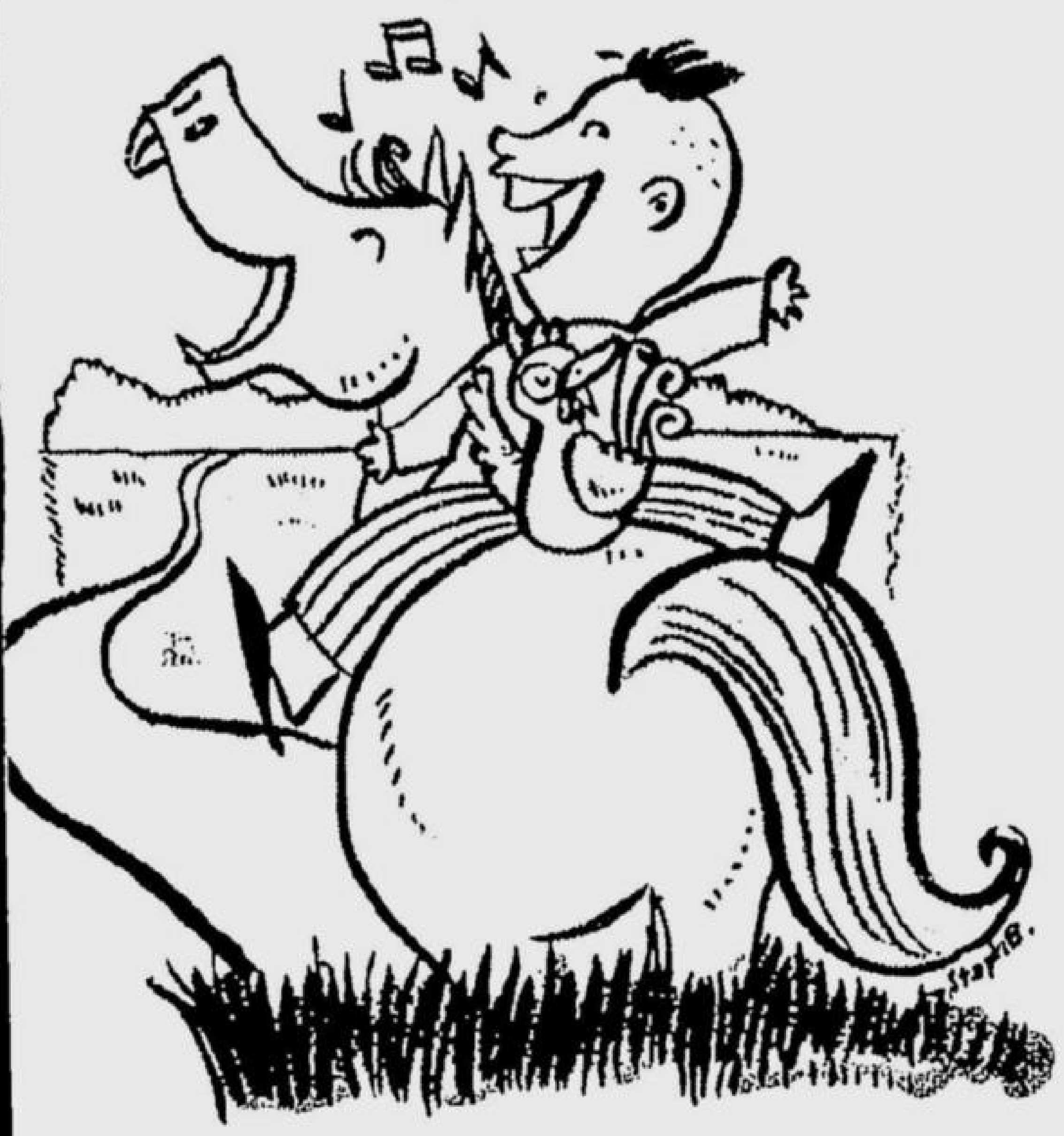

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Canon CAMERA • JUNIORINQUIRER

SHOOT & WIN A BF!

CONTEST WINNERS

Kids at Different Moments

Being a kid is really so much fun. You get to have happy moments with the people you really care about whatever the situation is. Just like this new batch of contest winners in the "Canon and Junior Inquirer's **Shoot & Win a BF Contest**," three great pictures of kids having fun at different moments.

Leslie Reizel Bitoy of 115-B Fortuna St. Pasay City captured two kids at work. Although young at their age, these kids help their parents arrange the dried fishes into order in Salinas, Cavite – the place of *tuyo* and *tinapa* making. Even at work, these kids sure know how to get fun!

Gabriel C. Ibasco of Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City said that he and his best friend look like coffee and cream. Gabe's entry in the best friends in school category was taken during their last day of school in Brent International School when he gets to invite one of his friends to come to his house to play together. Gabe is the one on the right and the other one is Kharim. In class, they always sit together and have lots of fun together. They both love pizza, telling jokes, dancing and singing cool songs. Now that they are on vacation, Kharim went home to his country. Gabe says that he misses playing with him and hopes that they will still be classmates when classes start on August.

Chiela Ann Maye Solis' picture with her mom truly showed how she loves her. In the "I Love My Mom" category, Chiela explains that she loves her mom because of the ways her mom takes care of the family. She said that her mom loves to cook, and wakes up early to prepare for their breakfast before going to work. She believes that every moment with her mom is unforgettable. She loves her mom because her mom is always willing to give time and even sacrifice her work just so she can spend time with her children, just like what her mom did for her 7th birthday. In the picture, Chiela and her mom spend the night at Manila Galleria Suites as Chiela's prize in a drawing contest. Chiela believes that all her successes are due mainly from her mother.

Whatever the situation is, be it with a playmate, a best friend or a mom, kids really know how to have fun and make these moments unforgettable. Congratulations to Leslie, Gabriel and Shiela for winning this week!

Canon
PRIMA
BF-800

Look Out Kid!

Thank you to all the young and the young-at heart who send their entries and Congratulations to all those who won!

PLAYTIME! Marc Pinchart kicks a football around with his four-year-old son Tyler at the Eurocampus.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

He's all that

Mr. Marc Pinchart is a teacher, a sportsman, an artist, and a great dad

By Agatha Guidaben

YOU know you're welcome when you enter the Pincharts' cozy bungalow. Colorful paintings lead you into the sala, where a 14-year-old tabby curls up for a catnap on your chair's arm rest.

In the kitchen, Mrs. Daisy Pinchart prepares some snacks while sons Drake, 10, and Tyler, 4, play with their toys. Soon enough they'll have a new playmate—Mrs. Pinchart's on the way with another baby boy.

This is Mr. Marc Pinchart's family. Of course you'll have to add to that one more cat, a dog, some birds, aquarium fish, and a turtle… they really have a lot of pets around.

"I take care of the animals," Mr. Pinchart relates. But that is just one of the chores he does on a busy day. He also fixes broken things around the house and helps his sons with their studies.

That may not sound too hectic, but Mr. Pinchart happens to be a physical education teacher. He teaches sports from nursery up to twelfth grade at the Eurocampus. Name it, he plays it—basketball, volleyball, baseball, soccer, hockey, badminton… say, Mr. Pinchart is one athletic person!

The Belgian national smiles at this comment. "I used to be a gymnast when I was a younger man," he confides. Also, he used to travel a lot to different parts of Asia. He came to the Philippines around ten years ago, and has since then started a family with Mrs. Pinchart. They met at a scuba diving class (yes, he scuba dives, too!).

"I used to dive a lot, but I don't have much time for it," Mr. Pinchart shares. He hasn't started teaching his sons how to dive yet, although he intends to introduce them to the sport when they are a bit older. "I will definitely show them what it is… I think it is a very interesting experience to see the underwater world," the 41-year-old father adds.

Despite the tiring activities at work, Mr. Pinchart still finds time for his kids. He helps Drake with his assignments. "Tyler is too young, he doesn't have any assignments yet," Mr. Pinchart says. He adds that he's really happy when the kids tell him they've done good in school and scored well in exams.

"They see that I didn't make them learn their lessons just to bother them… they see successful results," Mr. Pinchart explains.

After schoolwork, father and sons usually play basketball outside or bike around the subdivision. Coming home to dinner with pasta is a special treat—they all love pasta.

Whatever the occasion, Mr. Pinchart makes it a point to be with his kids as much as he can.

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____________.
He/She is ________ years old and
is my ______________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
5)____________________.

My nominee lives at__________
_ ____________________.
Give him/her a call at ________
or send him/her an e-mail at ____
____________________.
By the way, I'm __________
____________________.
I'm_________ years old.
My address is____________
____________________.
You may call me at__________
____________________.

Thinkathon

SPACE QUIZ

1. **Which planet or planets have rings?**
   A. Saturn
   B. Jupiter and Saturn
   C. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune
2. **Why do stars twinkle?**
   X. They don't but planets do
   Y. Due to the turbulent atmosphere
   Z. Because they emit gases
3. **What are the 3 types of galaxies?**
   A. spirals, ellipticals and irregulars
   B. white dwarf, red dwarf and red giants
   C. Milky Way, Andromeda and Orion
4. **On which planet has a man-made space probe NOT landed on?**
   X. Mars
   Y. Jupiter
   Z. Saturn
5. **How many stars, approximately, can be seen by the naked eye?**
   A. 300
   B. 3,000
   C. 30,000
6. **Do black holes exist?**
   X. Yes, the effects of black holes are clearly visible
   Y. Maybe, but we have no direct evidence
   Z. No, they are just in the realm of science fiction
7. **Which planets does the Earth lie between?**
   A. Venus and Mars
   B. Mars and Jupiter
   C. Mars and Saturn
8. **Why is the Sun red at sunset?**
   X. Bluer light is bent away from us
   Y. The Sun changes colour
   Z. Because rain is on the horizon
9. **Is it true that a comet's tail always points away from the Sun?**
   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. Sometimes
10. **Why do we have leap years?**
   X. It is an old tradition
   Y. Because the rotation of the Earth is speeding up
   Z. Because the Earth takes longer than 365 days to orbit the Sun
11. **How old is the solar system?**
   A. 4.5 million years old
   B. 450 million years old
   C. 4,500 million years old
12. **About how many kilometers away is the Earth from the Sun?**
   X. 15 million
   Y. 150 million
   Z. 1,500 million

Answers:

1. C 5. B 9. A
2. X 6. X 10. Z
3. A 7. A 11. C
4. Z 8. X 12. Y

Ratings:

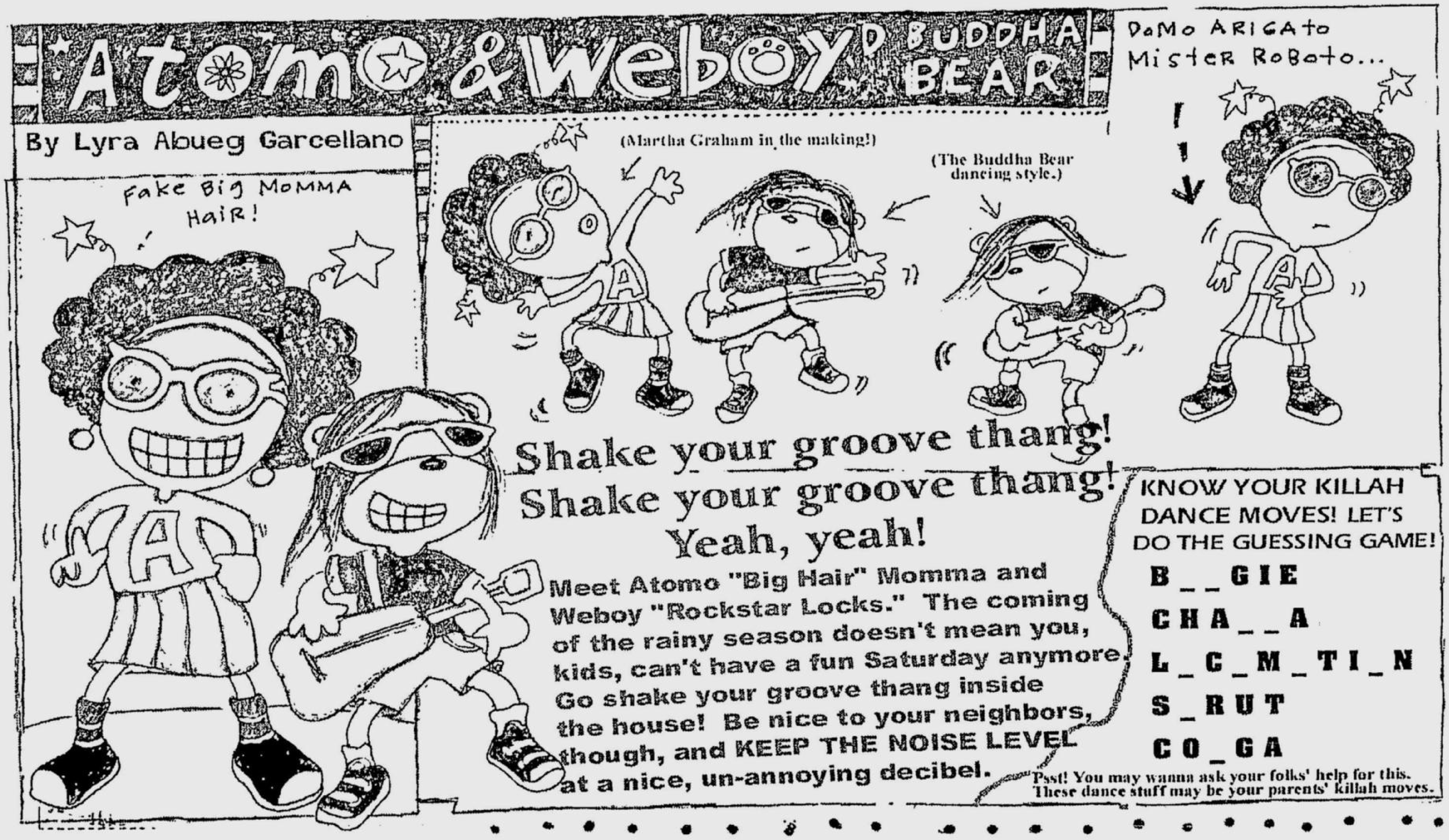
superbrain!
11-12

excellent!
9-10

good!
6-8

Atomo & Weboy D Buddha Bear

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano


Atomo & Weboy D Buddha Bear
Fake Big MOMMA HaiR!
(Martha Graham in the making!)
(The Buddha Bear dancing style.)
DoMo ARIGAto Mister RoBoto...
Shake your groove thang!
Shake your groove thang!
Yeah, yeah!

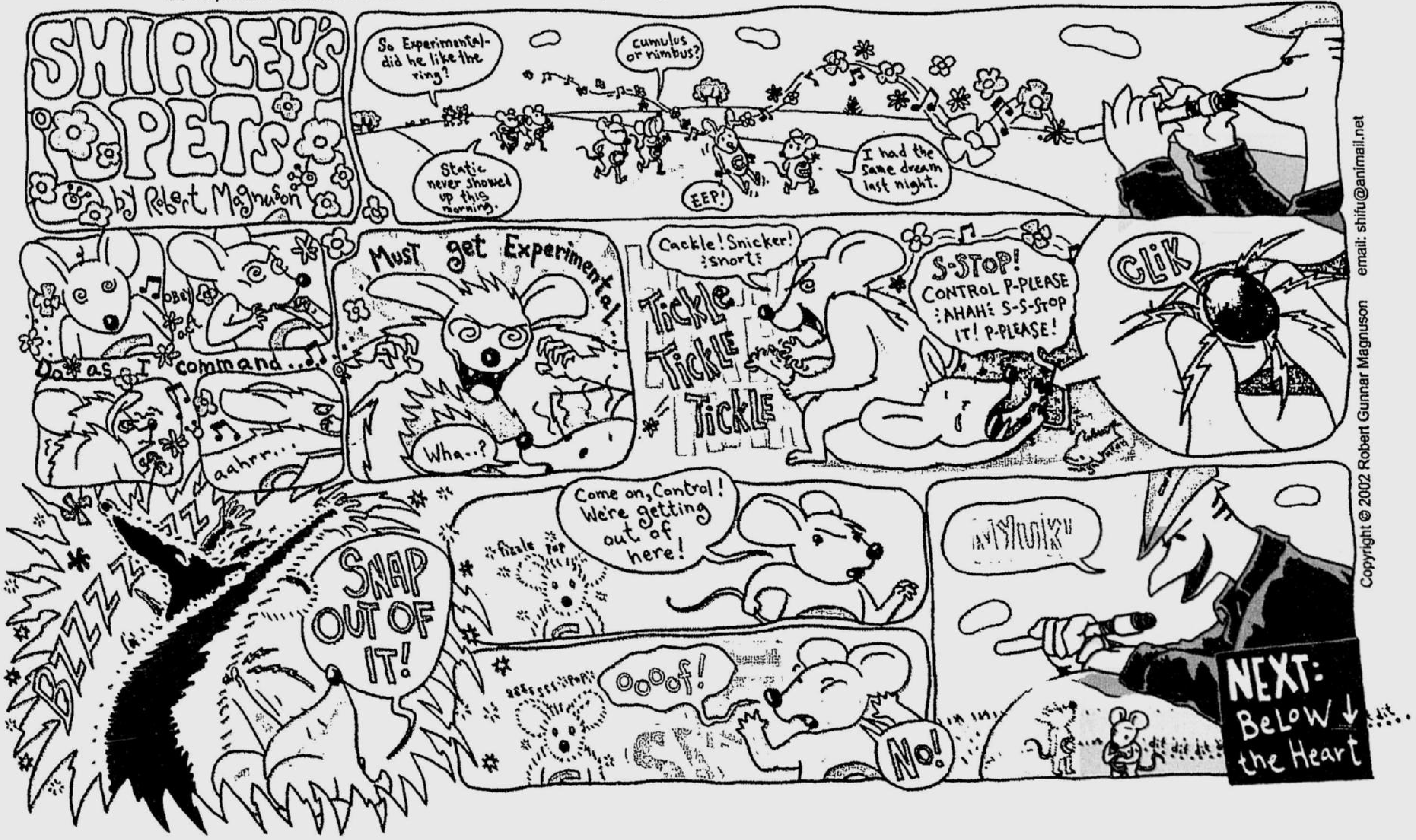
Meet Atomo "Big Hair" Momma and Weboy "Rockstar Locks." The coming of the rainy season doesn't mean you, kids, can't have a fun Saturday anymore. Go shake your groove thang inside the house! Be nice to your neighbors, though, and KEEP THE NOISE LEVEL at a nice, un-annoying decibel.

KNOW YOUR KILLAH DANCE MOVES! LET'S DO THE GUESSING GAME!

B _ _ GIE
CHA _ _ A
L _ C _ M _ TI _ N
S _ RUT
CO _ GA

Psst! You may wanna ask your folks' help for this. These dance stuff may be your parents' killah moves.

Last Episode: With unknown motives, a rival group of Super-Animals have begun their attack on the neighborhood animal-heores. So far, Static Cat and Gerbil Ball have fallen to Grizzly George and Piranha Pete. The mice Control and Experimantal are next...


SHIRLEY'S PETS
by Robert Magnuson
So Experimental- did he like the ring?
cumulus or nimbus?
Static never showed up this morning.
EEP!
I had the same dream last night.
OBEY
Do as I command...
aahrr...
Must get Experimental...
Wha..?
Cackle! Snicker! snort
Tickle Tickle Tickle
S-STOP! CONTROL P-PLEASE AHAH S-S-STOP IT! P-PLEASE!
CLIK
BZZZZ
SNAP OUT OF IT!
fizzle pop
Come on, Control! We're getting out of here!
OOOOF!
No!
NEXT: Below ↓ the Heart

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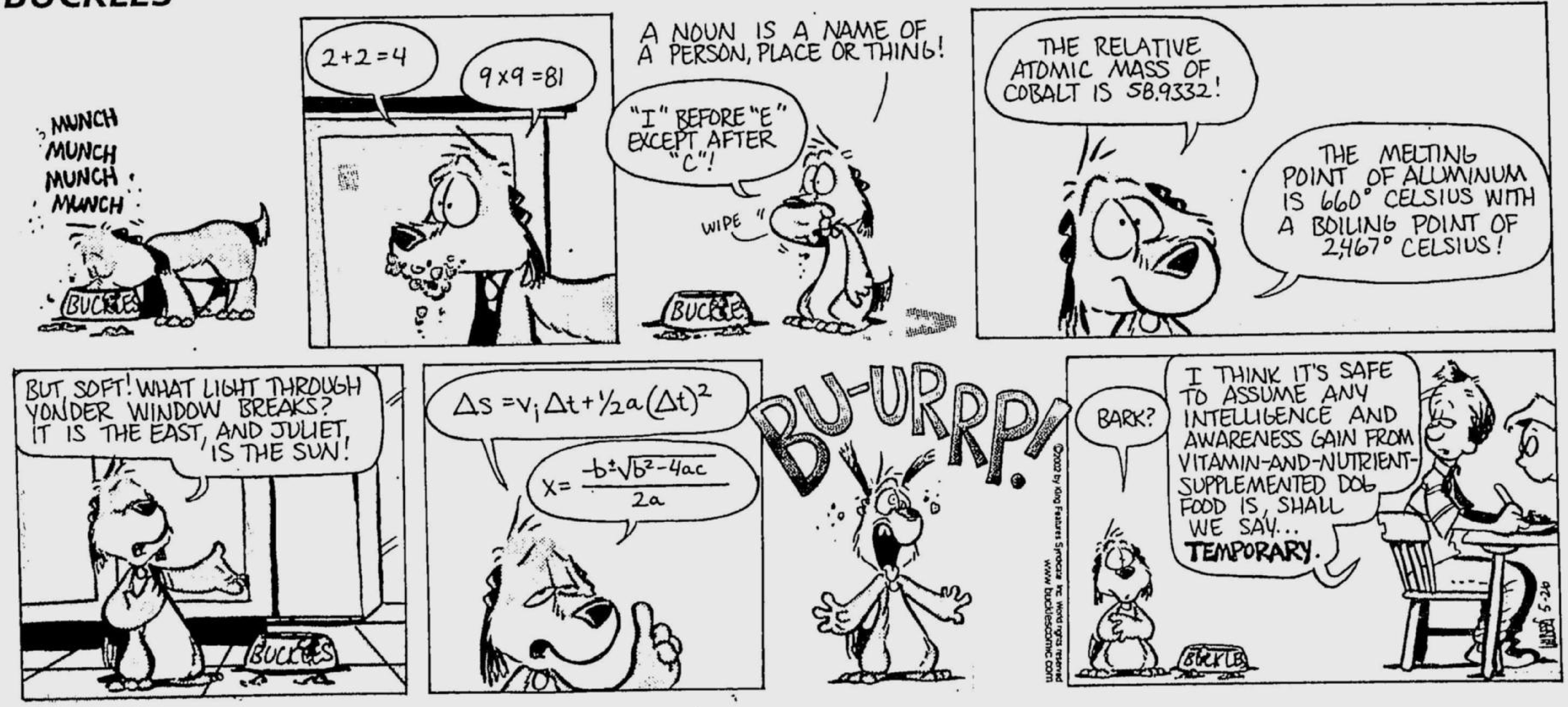
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
BUCKLES
2+2=4
9x9=81
A NOUN IS A NAME OF A PERSON, PLACE OR THING!
"I" BEFORE "E" EXCEPT AFTER "C"!
WIPE
BUCKLES
THE RELATIVE ATOMIC MASS OF COBALT IS 58.9332!
THE MELTING POINT OF ALUMINUM IS 660° CELSIUS WITH A BOILING POINT OF 2,467° CELSIUS!
BUT, SOFT! WHAT LIGHT THROUGH YONDER WINDOW BREAKS? IT IS THE EAST, AND JULIET IS THE SUN!
BUCKLES
$\Delta s = v_i \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} a (\Delta t)^2$
$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$
BU-URRP!
BARK?
I THINK IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME ANY INTELLIGENCE AND AWARENESS GAIN FROM VITAMIN-AND-NUTRIENT-SUPPLEMENTED DOG FOOD IS, SHALL WE SAY... TEMPORARY.
BUCKLES
5-28

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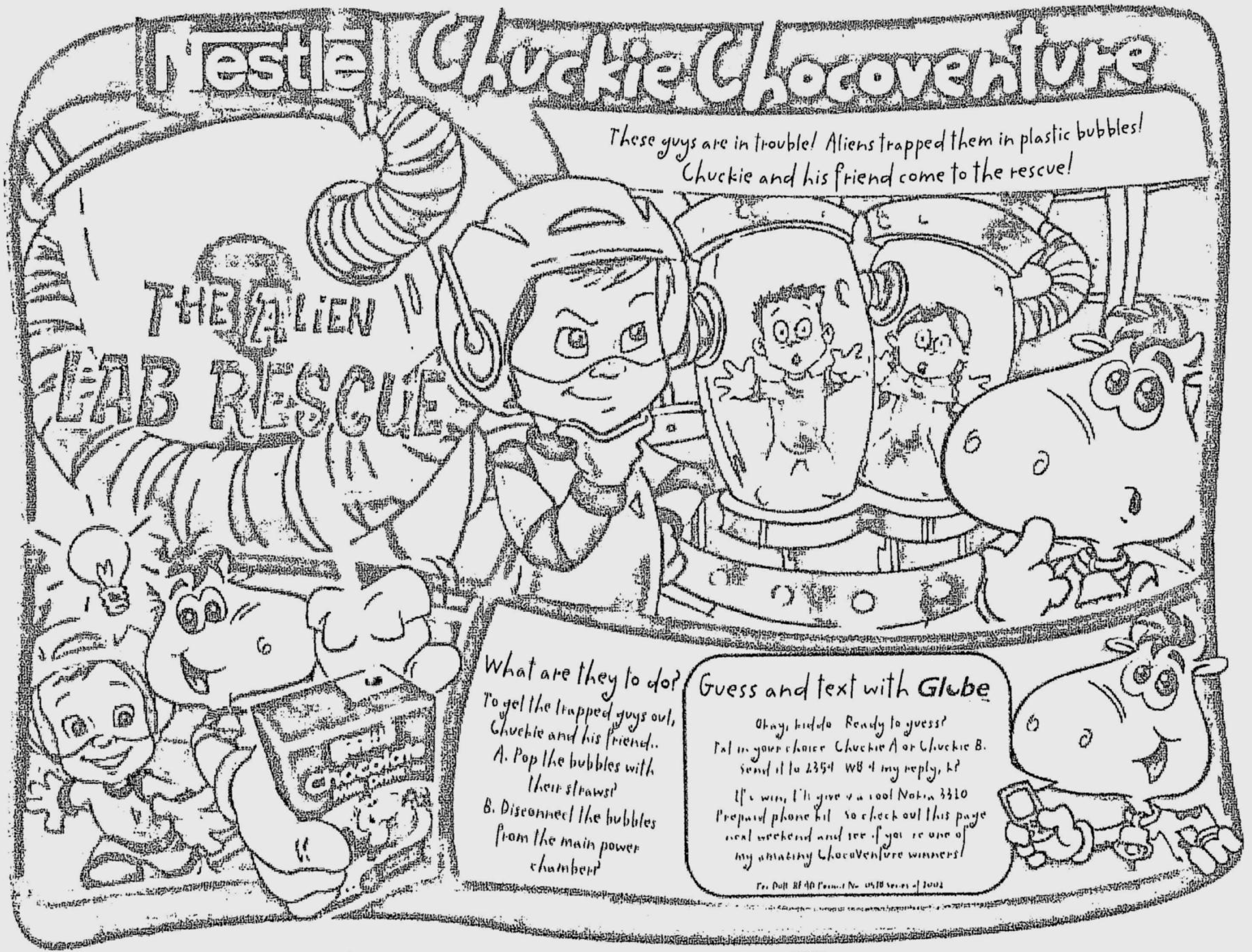

Nestlé
Chuckie Chocoventure
These guys are in trouble! Aliens trapped them in plastic bubbles! Chuckie and his friend come to the rescue!
THE ALIEN LAB RESCUE
Chocolate

What are they to do?

To get the trapped guys out, Chuckie and his friend..

A. Pop the bubbles with their straws?

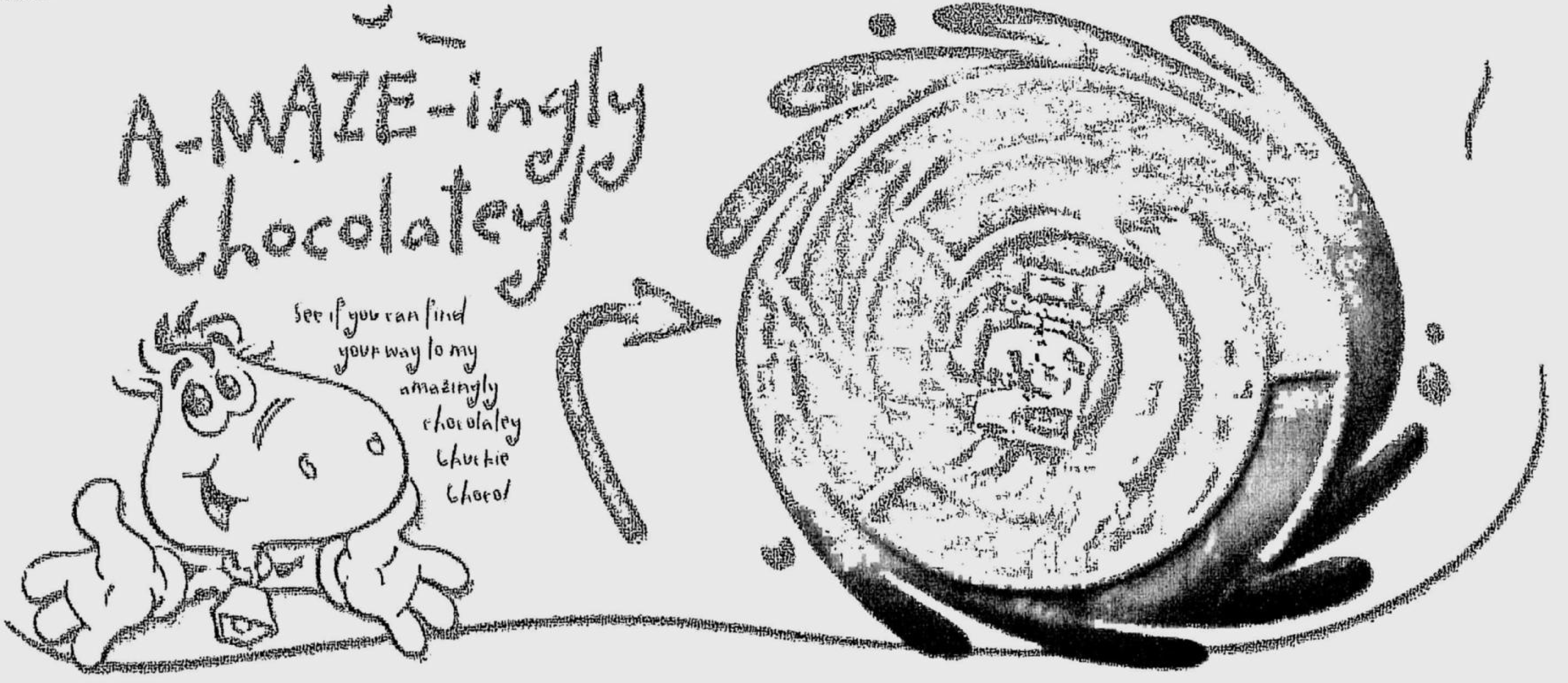
B. Disconnect the bubbles from the main power chamber?

Guess and text with Globe

Okay, kiddo. Ready to guess?
Txt in your choice Chuckie A or Chuckie B.
Send it to 2354. W8 4 my reply, k?

If u win, I'll give u a cool Nokia 3310
Prepaid phone kit. So check out this page
next weekend and see if you're one of
my amazing Chocoventure winners!

Per DTI BFAD Permit No. 0510 Series of 2001


A-MAZE-ingly Chocolatey!
See if you can find your way to my amazingly chocolatey Chuckie Choco!